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SOMETHING'S BREWING
IN THE HEARTLAND

WESTERN ROAD TRIP

FAMILY TIME IN THE
NATIONAL PARKS

80 GREAT TRAVEL BOOKS

FROM CLASSICS
TO THRILLERS

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A WRITER ON HER
FAVORITE SPOTS

AT HOME IN IRELAND

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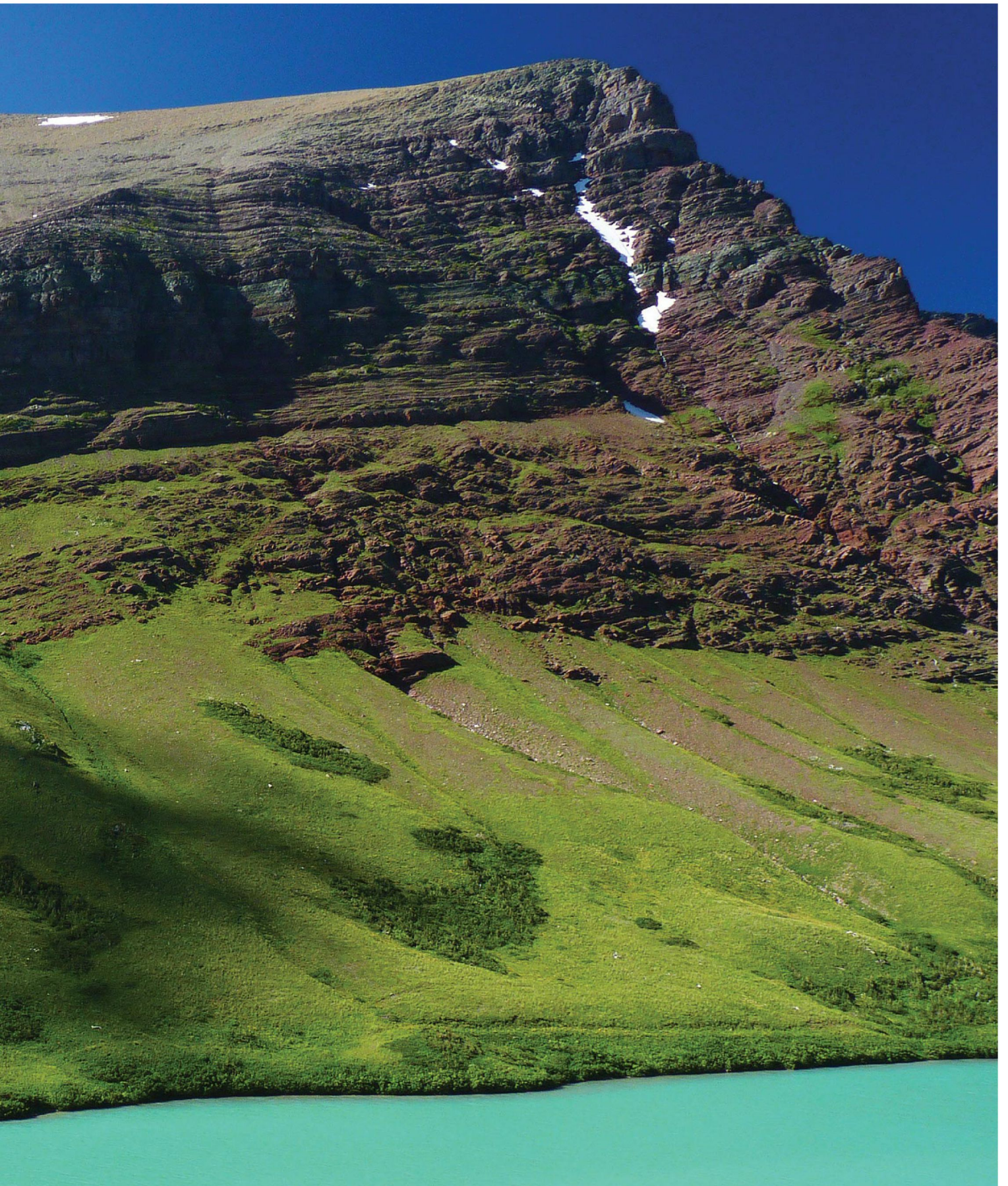
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#MontanaMoment | Mountain goat at Cracker Lake in Glacier National Park

"It was as if he was taking in the beauty of Cracker Lake just as we were. We had never laid eyes on a lake so vividly turquoise-colored in our lives. The mountain goat then lay down on this outcrop and took in the sun for over an hour. We felt so lucky to be there, and amazed that this incredible place is here for both us and the mountain goats to enjoy." DAVID AND SHANNON BIEGEL





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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

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Amsterdam,
by the book

A Novel Approach to Travel

YOU COULD SAY I VACATION FOR A LIVING. But apart from escapes with my family, the truth is I'm either busy reporting or diving in and out of destinations while on business. And the idea of taking time off for myself—forget it.

Last December, though, I took a vacation, in Antigua. Five days alone. To do what I wanted, when I wanted. I sailed, visited historic Nelson's Dockyard, and drove up to Shirley Heights, where the views are the best on the island.

I rarely get to lose myself in novels, but that's how I spent the rest of my time. It was pure luxury. When I travel, I look for a book that evokes the spot I'm visiting. On this trip I took Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*, with her Antiguan perspective on an island she believes has been treated unkindly by tourism. "And so you must devote yourself," she writes, "to puzzling out how much of what you are told is really, really true. (Is ground-up bottle glass in peanut sauce really a delicacy around here, or

will it do just what you think ground-up bottle glass will do? Is this rare, multicolored, snout-mouthed fish really an aphrodisiac, or will it cause you to fall asleep permanently?)"

I also reread *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, set in the Belgian Congo—my birthplace. I was almost four when my family left, in the 1950s, to escape the riots that would lead to the nation's independence from Belgium in 1960. I had only family lore and faint memories of what happened; Kingsolver's novel took me home. It brought the Congo alive, creating a context and a visual landscape that might have been lost to me forever. Such books conjure a strong sense of place and give insights beyond a guidebook. That is the point of "Around the World in 80 Books," on page 75, our selection of narratives that we hope will inspire and inform your next trip.

When I travel, I look for a novel that evokes the destination I'm visiting, with a strong sense of place and insights beyond those offered by a guidebook.

— KEITH BELLOWS

OUR MISSION

National Geographic Traveler reports on destinations of distinction and character, and supports efforts to keep them that way—believing that to enhance an authentic sense of place will benefit both travelers and the locations they visit. For more information, visit travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable.



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JEANNIE RALSTON & ROBB KENDRICK

WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER,
"PARKS AND RE-CREATION"

HOME: Austin, Texas.

MISSED CONNECTIONS:

The lack of cellphone and Internet service in parts of Yellowstone made us feel more out of touch than we had in remote parts of China a year earlier.

SPRING BREAK: The Arab Spring happened right before a big family trip to Egypt. When President Hosni Mubarak stepped down, we took a leap of faith to go ahead. We had the place to ourselves, basically—the pyramids, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, a sail down the Nile. We also witnessed an electrifying chapter in the country's evolution.

LEARNING CURVE: When the boys were 12 and 10 we decided to homeschool and travel for a while, in South America, Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean, China,



and Japan. As they've gotten older, we've included them in trip problem-solving and decision-making so they feel they have a voice and learn how to travel efficiently.



TURTLE BUNBURY

WRITER, "AT HOME IN IRELAND"

HOME: Lisnavagh estate in County Carlow, Ireland, has been the Bunbury family home since the 1660s and used to be one of the largest Big Houses in Ireland. My grandparents reduced the house's size considerably after WWII to make it more manageable. Today, my brother and his family live there and run it as a wedding venue. Six years ago my wife, Ally, and I built a two-story, old-style farmhouse in a corner of the estate, where we're raising our two small daughters amid wheat fields, oak trees, and cattle.

ANIMAL HOUSE: My grandmother—who was a bit of a character—once entered Lisnavagh House on a horse and rode through.

INN CROWD: It's rare to find a traditional pub with guest bedrooms above, but there are a few around, such as McCarthys Hotel in Tipperary. Enjoy the pub's ale, banter, and music, then simply stumble upstairs. And then I have a soft spot for County Kerry, where I sometimes stay in a stone cottage overlooking Ballinskelligs Bay and the rollicking Atlantic Ocean. It's one of nine cottages which, a hundred years ago, were part of a small community of Irish speakers including the renowned storyteller, or *seanchaí*, Seán Ó Conaill.

NELL FREUDENBERGER

WRITER, MY CITY: BROOKLYN

HOME: Brooklyn is heterogeneous in wonderful and disturbing ways, which makes it a fascinating place to be a writer. Rich and poor people live in close proximity. It's also culturally diverse in the extreme.

BROOKLYN OR...? I'd love to live in Mumbai. I stayed there for a few months years ago. I've never walked around a city that varies so much by neighborhood. I like the mash-up of architectural styles, and the feeling that you're in a place where history runs very deep, but which is also so dramatically modern.

SLICE OF LIFE: I'm a little embarrassed about how stimulating travel is for me as a writer: I feel I ought to be able to find inspiration at home. What I love about going somewhere very different, whether nearby or abroad, is the way I start to notice the details of ordinary life. When I was just out of college I spent a summer living with an eccentric woman in New Delhi whose lover went to great lengths to get European-style cheese for her. They would sit at a dusty table in her living room in the afternoons, talking and eating cheese. It was that table with the plate of cheese on it that inspired the first successful story I ever wrote.



ROBB KENDRICK (FAMILY), CHRIS BACON (MAN), ASHLEY GILBERTSON/VII (WOMAN)



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SUBMISSIONS Submission of photographs, articles, or other materials is done at the risk of the sender; *Traveler* cannot accept liability for loss or damage.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Published eight times a year. U.S., \$19.95 a year; Canada, \$24.95 (U.S. funds); elsewhere, \$25.50 (U.S. funds). For subscription questions, please call 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). To subscribe online, visit www.nationalgeographic.com.

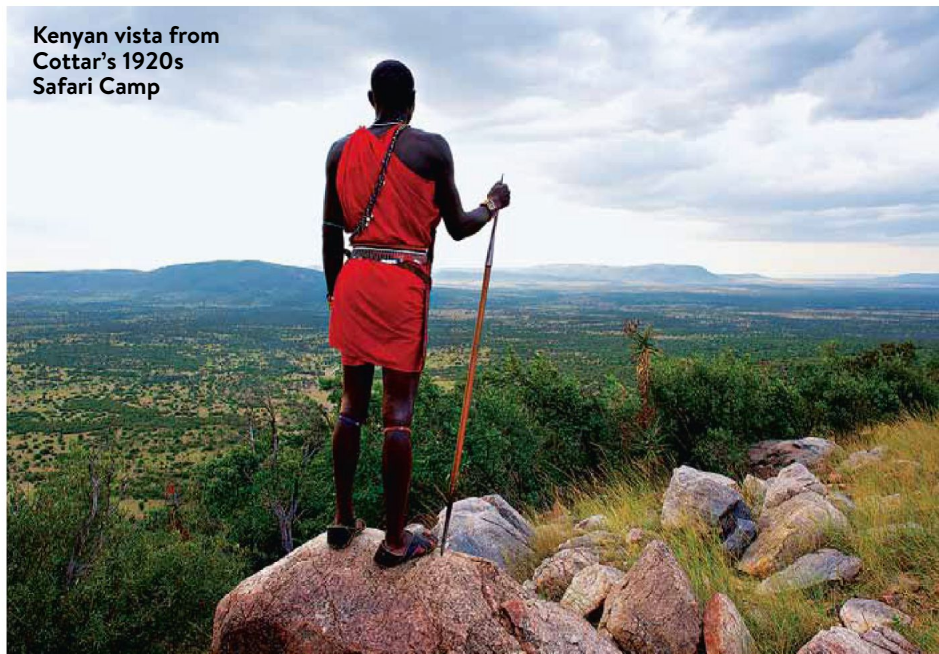


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Kenyan vista from Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp



“Kafka wrote, ‘Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.’ A sense of childhood awe blooms when we travel.”

—BLOG COMMENTER FW NORTH ON AN INTELLIGENT TRAVEL POST

in my hometown with my camera, once a month, to document the changes in light, street life, and nature. I moved here almost five years ago but still feel as if I hardly know the place.” Wendy McCarty of **Woodson, Ill.**, is also thinking local in 2014: “One day a month, I’ll see something new within 100 miles of my home. I’ve visited all 50 states and traveled overseas, but there is much in central Illinois I haven’t seen.”

Dreaming of Africa

TALK TO US

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THE 1940 MEMOIR *I Married Adventure* inspired writer David Lansing’s journey through northern Kenya, which he chronicled in “Paradise Lost and Found” (December 2013/January 2014). Book author Osa Johnson’s “showy, histrionic” prose, in Lansing’s words, also captivated reader Jo Ann Michetti of **Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.** “I have that same book, with its zebra-striped cover, in my bookcase. It was my grandmother Retta’s, and I read it at least five or six times as a teenager. Reading it got me started on my love of adventure travel.”

For Bill Prindle of **Eau Claire, Wis.**, Lansing’s article conjured up warm memories of his 1974 trip to Kenya’s Marsabit National Park. “We saw Paradise Lake and also photographed Kenya’s famous elephant with heavy tusks, named Ahmed. Soon after my visit, he died of old age; now Ahmed’s skeleton is on view at the Nairobi National Museum,” Prindle wrote. “Thank you for shining a light on the less understood places in our world.”

PEDAL TALK An article on our Intelligent Travel blog (“Are Bikes the New Tour Bus?”) about two-wheeled exploration got two thumbs up from readers. Anna Steiner of **Vienna, Austria**, relayed an experience she had hosting a traveler on a tight budget. “Since public transportation can be expensive for visitors, I suggested we use the CityBike system, which is free for the first hour and then again after a 15-minute break,” she wrote. “It was a great and convenient way to see the city.” A cyclist from **Boulder, Colo.**, chimed in to add his observations riding through eastern Europe: “I was amazed at the prevalence of bike paths, even in the remote countryside.”

WHAT RESOLVE Contributing blogger Robert Reid’s online article “Four Travel Resolutions You Can Keep” ranged from using up vacation days to unplugging from smartphones. Ingvar Eliasson of **Vänernsberg, Sweden**, shared a personal goal for the year: “I’ve resolved to take a full-day walk

BACON ON TOP “Painting the Town in Oslo, Norway” (December 2013/January 2014) listed Edvard Munch’s “Scream” as the most expensive painting ever auctioned, at \$119.9 million. Soon after the press date, however, a Francis Bacon triptych sold for a cool \$22.5 million more.



THREADS THAT BIND

Jamie James wove a tale of mystery and mysticism in “That Old Bali Magic” (June/July 2013). Reader and textile artist Linda Anderson of **San Diego, Calif.**, stitched a tribute, rendering Raymond Patrick’s accompanying photo of Balinese boys as an art quilt (above).



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National Geographic Student Expeditions sends high schoolers packing—to learn in places such as Australia, Belize, India, and Iceland (above). Whether zip-lining in Costa Rica or photographing Stonehenge, young travelers go “on assignment” and meet locals, scientists, filmmakers, adventurers, and more. “A few weeks helped shape me into who I will be for a long time,” said teen Nic Lisi, after traveling to Ecuador and the Galápagos with National Geographic. Scholarships are also available.

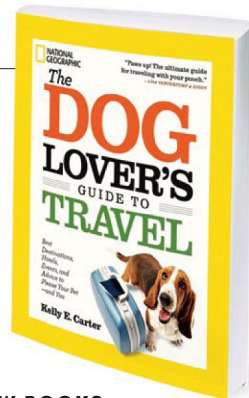
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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

A DIGITAL TREASURY FOR THE RICHES OF MONTANA

For travelers, the possibilities in Big Sky country can feel as endless as the horizon. Our new digital hub for all things Montana mines area expertise to reveal the best ways to experience each season. A photo blog shares digital postcards from National Geographic photographers in the field, starting with such scenes from *Traveler* Director of Photography Dan Westergren as a sleigh ride to a log-cabin dinner, an adventure by dogsled near Bigfork, and the adrenaline rush of Whitefish in winter (right).

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NEW BOOKS

HIT THE PAWS BUTTON

After a decade of jet-setting with her Chihuahua, Kelly E. Carter unleashes *The Dog Lover's Guide to Travel*. Her picks for best-in-show hotels, restaurants, beaches, and parks cater to four-legged Rovers and their on-the-go humans, from Sanibel Island, Florida, to Whistler, British Columbia.

THINK LOCAL, GO GLOBAL

Where the Locals Go pushes past the tried and true with more than 300 experiences in destinations around the globe where visitors can connect—and blend in—with residents. Find out how to help with the harvest in a Burgundy vineyard, join the sunset crowds on Mumbai's Juhu Beach, and walk Japan's pilgrimage trail network, the Kumano Kodo.

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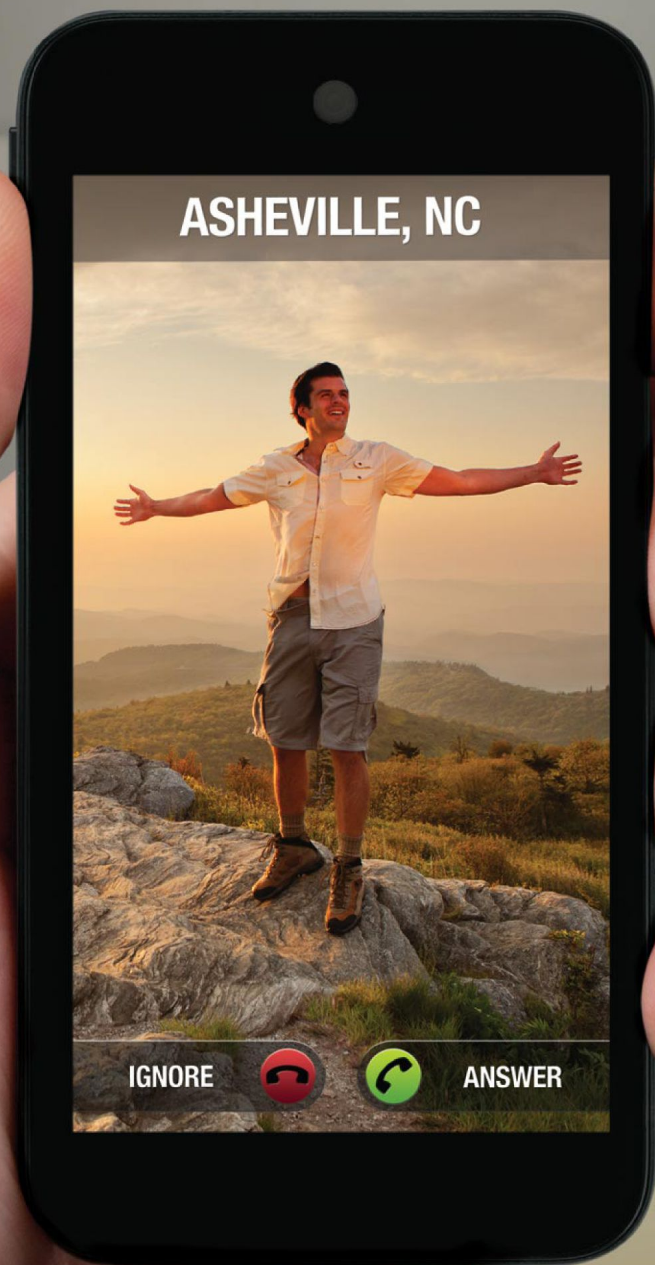
Traveler Editor at Large Christopher Elliott knows all the hiccups that can interrupt even the best laid plans. *How to Be the World's Smartest Traveler (and Save Time, Money, and Hassle)* draws on his two decades as a consumer advocate, outlining step-by-step tips on cruises, car rentals, travel insurance, time-shares, restaurants, resorts, airports, and more.

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A dramatic landscape photograph of a snow-capped mountain peak, likely Mount Everest, under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a hiker is silhouetted against the mountain, standing on a rocky ridge and using a trekking pole. The hiker is wearing a backpack and is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the mountain. The mountain's peak is covered in snow and has a jagged, rocky appearance. The lower slopes of the mountain are covered in dark, rocky terrain with some patches of snow. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and exploration.

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BEST OF THE WORLD

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—MEDIEVAL SAYING

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Thermal baths
at Budapest's
Gellért Spa

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An inviting pool at Budapest's Danubius Hotel Gellért

The Stuff Dreams (and Movies) Are Made Of

WITH ITS TITLE ALONE, Wes Anderson's new film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, conjures up a vision of Old World elegance. The quirky comedy stars Ralph Fiennes as a concierge of a legendary hotel in a fictionalized central European country. But hotels do once again play starring roles in the Hungarian capital, headlining a blockbuster renovation sweeping from Castle Hill in Buda to newly brightened Kossuth Square in Pest. Century-old buildings have been meticulously restored to house luxe lodgings. Four Seasons Gresham Palace looks like a wedding cake on the banks of the waltz-inspiring Danube, and the Buddha-Bar Hotel Klotild Palace manages to gracefully present Orient-meets-Habsburg opulence in

a modern way. The grande dame remains the Danubius Hotel Gellért, completed in 1918, with the facade perhaps most similar to Anderson's set. The hotel's art nouveau thermal baths are still fit for an archduke (guests enjoy direct access via private elevator), though the faded rooms themselves could use some of the city's make-over magic. Head out of the hotel, cross the street, and walk up Gellért Hill for a panoramic view of a city that architecturally echoes Vienna, Paris, and Rome. "Go to Budapest," writes András Török in *Budapest: A Critical Guide*, "and you see all of Europe." —AMY ALIPIO

■ TIP: A SOAK IN THE GELLÉRT BATHS STARTS AT \$22; ADMIRING THE LOBBY'S STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS AND MOSAIC FLOORS IS FREE.

ATLAS

Budapest, Hungary

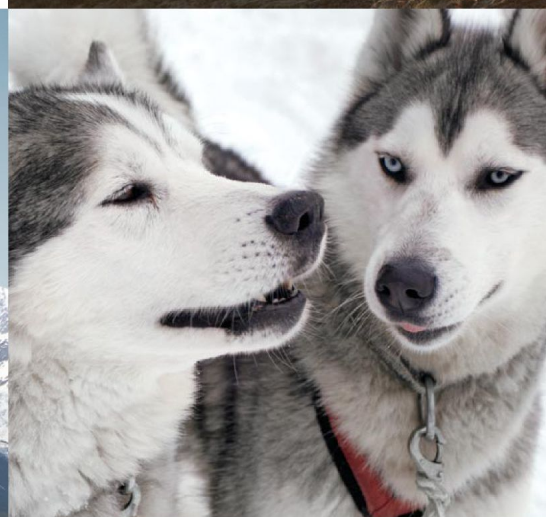
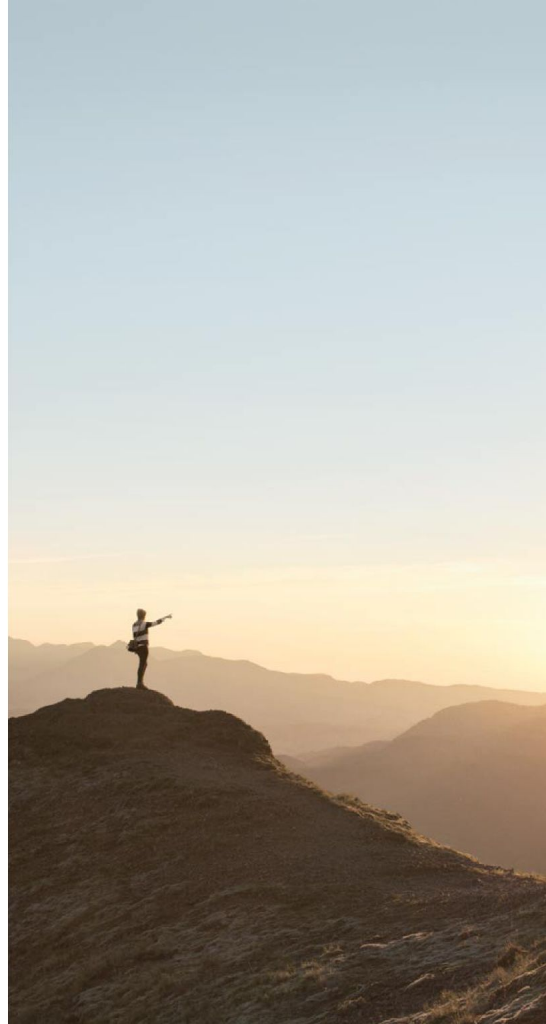


On the city's Buda side, Elvis Presley Park hails the singer's support of Hungary's anti-Soviet revolution of 1956.

THE GREATEST SHOW IS EARTH

Some days, it will make you feel impossibly big. Other days, it will make you feel crushingly small. But with time spent sailing past stunning Alaskan glaciers, you will always, always feel. *Travel Weekly's Best Cruise Line in Alaska, seven years running.*

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Rocking the casbahs in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco

Berber Fervor in North Africa

FORTY MILES SOUTH of cosmopolitan Marrakech, Morocco, the tarmac shrinks to a stony footpath at Imlil. Tucked into the peaks of Toubkal National Park, named for North Africa's highest summit, a crop of modern guesthouses has transformed this village, once known as a no-frills base camp, into a comfortable retreat for day hikers. Berber hospitality takes over where the road ends, amid the fragrance of community bread ovens and the sounds of braying pack mules (and their drivers crying "*balak*—pay attention"—to pedestrians). From here villagers escort travelers up a short, steep climb through walnut groves to a warmer welcome still—woodstoves and crystalline terrace views, a bowl of milk and dates,

service with a djellaba and a smile—at inns such as the Kasbah du Toubkal. When the sun sets, out come the communal platters of couscous and tagines. As the days lengthen, early spring makes an ideal time for a stroll to the orchards of Targa Imoula, says adventure guide turned casbah owner Mike McHugo. "The mountaintops are still snowcapped, but the valley is in full flower with apple and cherry blossoms, and the rivers run with snowmelt," he says. And as cumulus clouds drift through the canyons, two songs harmonize: the rush of reawakened rivers and the muezzin's call to prayer. —CHRISTINE O'TOOLE

■ **TIP: CHARTER A TAXI OR TAKE A LOCAL BUS FROM MARRAKECH FOR THE 90-MINUTE DRIVE TO IMLIL THROUGH HIGH ATLAS FOOTHILLS.**

ATLAS

High Atlas, Morocco



Winston Churchill often painted the vivid High Atlas landscape from his Marrakech hotel window in the 1930s.

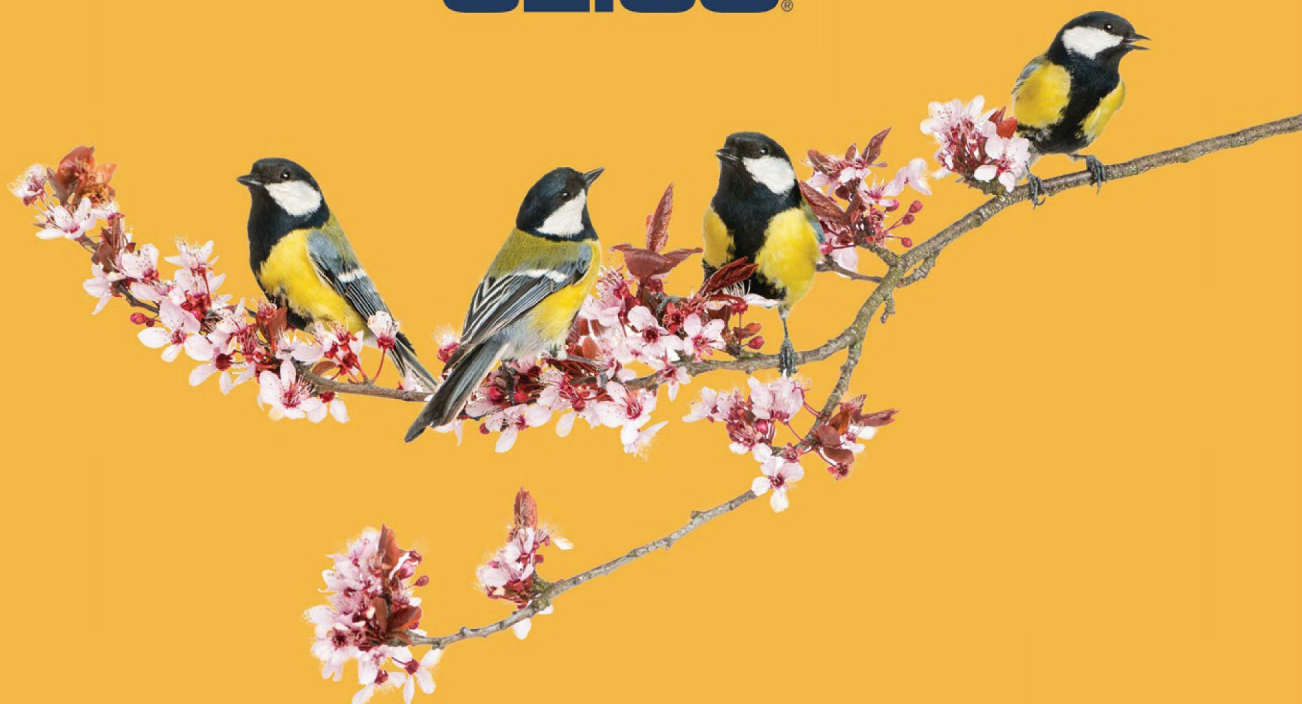
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Drinking in some quiet at Ocho on San Antonio's River Walk

More to Remember in the Alamo City

SAN ANTONIO RECENTLY completed a \$358 million face-lift of its famed River Walk, ecologically restoring the San Antonio River while expanding pathways along its banks. Downtown remains a hive of restaurants, water taxis, and Texas history, but now visitors can also connect with locals along the river in less touristed areas. Nature enthusiasts venture south down the newly completed Mission Reach, whose quiet trails lead to Spanish outposts built during the early 1700s. Here exploration requires foot, bike, or kayak, because those tourist barges that have become synonymous with the River Walk can't navigate its lower end. That's part of the appeal: The Mission Reach is a bastion of solitude, the yin to the yang of downtown's buzz.

Meanwhile, epicureans retreat north, past the Museum Reach's cultural institutions, to historic Pearl Brewery. A local benefactor gave this defunct brewhouse a fresh lease in recent years, building a "culinary village" around an outpost of the Culinary Institute of America. "The Pearl is becoming as popular as the Alamo," says Jesse Perez, executive chef of Arcade Midtown Kitchen, one of Pearl's newest tenants and listed among the country's "most anticipated openings of 2013" by national blog Eater. Coming soon: A 146-room boutique hotel will open in the 19th-century brewery. —MILLIE KERR

■ **TIP: RENT WHEELS FROM B-CYCLE (FROM \$10 A DAY, WITH MANY DOCKING STATIONS) TO ENJOY 13 MILES OF RIVERFRONT TRAILS.**

ATLAS

San Antonio, Texas



In 1952, German brewmasters renamed the city's brewery "Pearl" for the lustrous look of its lager bubbles.

INTERNATIONAL MAPPING



A newly hatched turtle taking to the sea on a Puerto Rican beach

Where the Turtle Actually Won the Race

LAST SPRING Puerto Rico bucked a decades-long trend by protecting 3,000 acres of pristine beaches and mangroves along the Northeast Ecological Corridor. A new law marks an unexpectedly happy ending to a 15-year battle fought by environmental activists to wrest this portion of the Caribbean island's coast—which includes a vital nesting area for the endangered leatherback turtle—from the construction cranes of developers. A microcosm of Puerto Rico, this swath of land encompasses all types of coastal wetlands found on the island and is home to nearly 900 other species, including ones struggling to survive such as the endangered West Indian manatee. "Its scale of ecosystem diversity is extremely rare in any

location around the world," says Camilla Feibelman, a former field organizer for the Sierra Club, which offers tours of the region. Day-trippers from San Juan, less than five miles to the west, already head to eastern Puerto Rico for El Yunque rain forest and the bioluminescent Fajardo lagoon. Yet the corridor is even easier to access—public bus is one option—and the recent legislation promises to encourage ecotourism in this unique habitat. Soon travelers can expect expanded hiking and biking trails as well as the introduction of interpretive experiences, guided tours, and kayak rentals. —**JULIE SCHWIETERT COLLAZO**

■ **TIP: VISIT THE COASTAL VILLAGE OF LOÍZA, KNOWN AS THE CRADLE OF AFRO-PUERTO RICAN CULTURE AND FOR ITS RHYTHMIC MUSIC.**

ATLAS

Puerto Rico



The temperature inside the nest of turtle eggs determines the sex of the hatchlings. Hotter temps produce more females.



Artists Dani Le Roy (left) and Laura Summs at Woodstock's Moonbasket studio

A Pot of Design Gold in the Rainbow Nation

IN A NOD TO THE renaissance transforming South Africa, Cape Town has been crowned the World Design Capital of 2014. The art scene here particularly flourishes in the neighborhood of Woodstock, a historically industrial quarter along a shabby stretch of the city's eastern fringes. Revamped heritage buildings hum with galleries, vintage shops, restaurants, and working ateliers. "I love the energy," says chef Luke Dale-Roberts, who opened his top-rated Test Kitchen and Pot Luck Club restaurants in Woodstock's Old Biscuit Mill, with views of Table Mountain from the top floor. "Within a two-mile radius, I can go to a bronze foundry or a woodworker's factory." Design mavens can chat with the artistic tenants at Side Street

Studios, admire crochet objets d'art (hand-produced by crafters from the impoverished Khayelitsha township) at Moonbasket, and consider contemporary African art at Whatiftheworld, a gallery in a former synagogue. And every Saturday, Woodstock's Neighbourgoods Market brings out the city's bohemian tastemakers (fedoras, Afro curls, round spectacles, and tattoos aplenty). Here, in a once abandoned warehouse from the Victorian era, local vendors hawk screen-printed cushions and handmade leather bags alongside artisan cheeses and buttery steak pies. —**SARAH KHAN**

■ **TIP:** EXPLORE THE TANGLE OF LANES BELOW ALBERT ROAD, WHERE MURAL SUBJECTS RANGE FROM RHINOS TO MOTHER TERESA.

ATLAS

Cape Town, South Africa



In 1967, Cape Town surgeon Christiaan Barnard performed the first ever human heart transplant.

INTERNATIONAL MAPPING

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"I live in Brooklyn.
By choice. Those
ignorant of its
allures are entitled
to wonder why."

—TRUMAN CAPOTE

Walking toward
the entrance
of Brooklyn's
Prospect Park
PAGE 26

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World Calendar 39

MY CITY

Much Ado About Brooklyn

WHERE TYKES AND LITERARY TYPES GATHER TO PLAY By NELL FREUDENBERGER



BROOKLYN IS KNOWN for all the writers who live here: You can find them frowning at their laptops in their neighborhood cafés, donning their noise-canceling headphones to block out the clamor of the only other comparably populous group—children under five. As luck would have it, my Brooklyn lies at the intersection of these two sets of scribblers.

Before I moved here three years ago, I was worried I wouldn't be cool enough for Brooklyn. As it turns out, I'm not—and that's fine. Brooklyn—with its milliners, its mustaches, its small-batch cupcakes for dogs—might even be tiring of its own hipness. An artisanal spirit without the pretentiousness can be found at places such as Café Martin, in Park Slope, where the Irish owner is often behind the counter. "Why does that man have such a sulky look?" one pint-size customer recently



A cyclist stops at the Park Slope Farmers Market (left). Café Martin (above) shines for its cozy ambience and cups of joe.

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Brooklyn accents: Park Slope's historic brownstones and Fort Greene's Greenlight Bookstore are neighborhood standouts.

inquired, over her hot chocolate. Admittedly a bit taciturn, owner Martin O'Connell makes the best and among the most reasonably priced espresso drinks in the borough. A little farther north, Blueprint has a peaceful garden walled in by repurposed Brazilian walnut, where a Dark & Stormy with house-made ginger beer and lime perfectly accompanies the Niman Ranch pork butt sliders.

One of the many things I love about the borough is its choice of bookshops. The Manhattan independents tend to be dark and crowded, both with shoppers and wares; not so Greenlight in Fort Greene, a clean and well-lighted place, which also sells books at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's *Eat, Drink and Be Literary* series. (This spring, BAM will host evenings with Chang-rae Lee, Alison

Bechdel, Daniel Alarcón, and Meg Wolitzer.) The Community Bookstore in Park Slope is more traditional, narrow and a little musty, but with a whimsical children's section and a pond full of turtles out back. The tiger cat, Tiny, is often napping sprawled across the table of new hardcover fiction. (Do not attempt to move her, even if her hindquarters are obscuring the cover of the novel that took you five years to write.)

When it's nice out and the cherry and dogwood trees are blooming, there's no reason to be anyplace besides Prospect Park, where we're regulars at the carousel and the zoo. On rainy days there's Brooklyn Boulders in Gowanus; its colorful climbing walls accommodate everyone from the serious mountaineer to...well, me and my kid. Prospect Park's historic carousel closes in the rain, but that's arguably the

best time to visit Jane's Carousel on the waterfront in DUMBO (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), which becomes a kind of submarine, with water streaming down Jean Nouvel's gorgeous glass box housing, blurring the barges gliding by on the East River.

Just a few steps away on Front Street is Berl's: the only all-poetry bookstore in New York City. Its owners, married poets Jared White and Farrah Field, sold chapbooks at the Brooklyn Flea for years before opening Berl's last September.

"It's hard to take a baby to work at a flea market," White explained—a good reminder that even writers have to grow up sometime, and Brooklyn is a pretty nice place to do it.

NELL FREUDENBERGER's most recent novel is *The Newlyweds*.

ATLAS

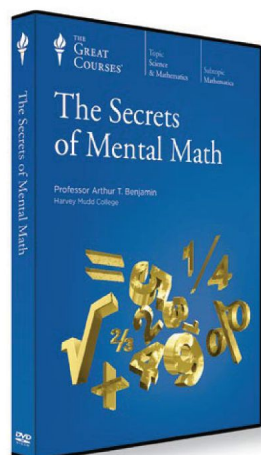
Brooklyn, New York



In 1835 Walt Whitman served as librarian of the Brooklyn Apprentices' Library, founded in 1823 as the borough's first free and circulating collection and now part of the Brooklyn Museum.

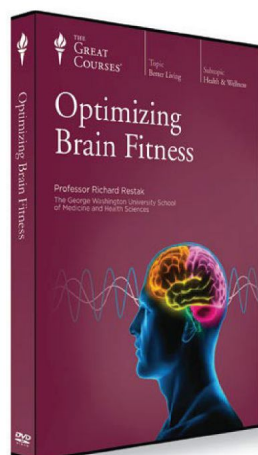


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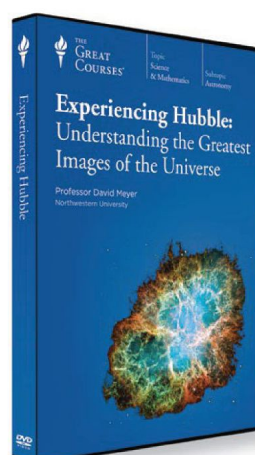
In **The Secrets of Mental Math**, award-winning Professor Arthur T. Benjamin teaches you the basic strategies of mental mathematics. This powerful ability to perform mental calculations will give you an edge in business, at school, at work, or anywhere else that you encounter math.

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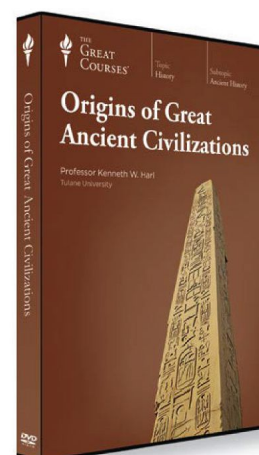
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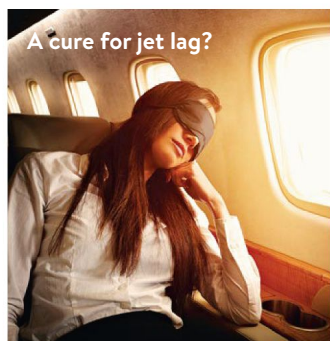
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A cure for jet lag?

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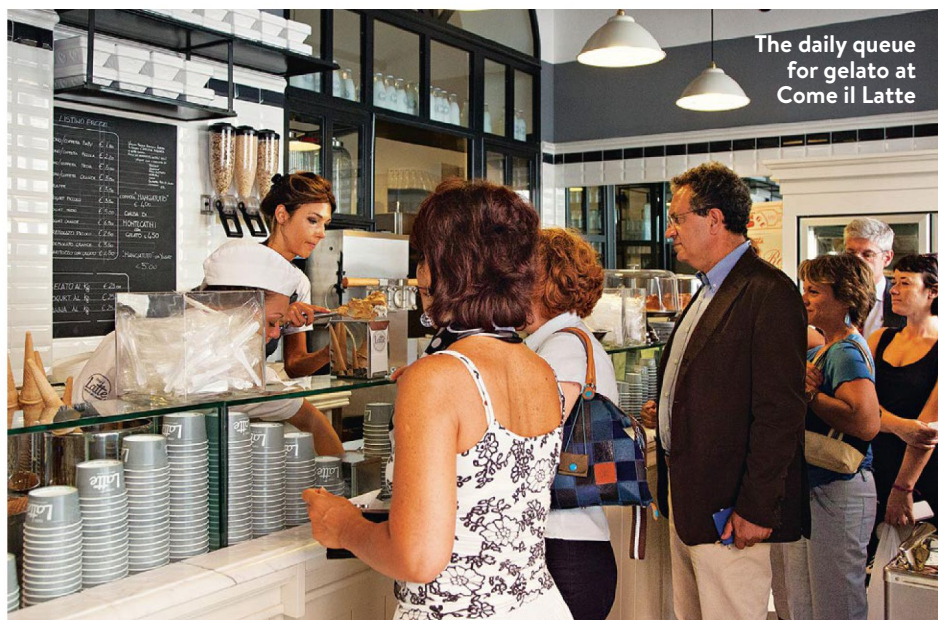
DAWN OF A NEW LIGHT AGE

By COSTAS CHRIST

I consider travel an enlightening experience, but it never occurred to me that **BEAMS OF LIGHT** might change the way we travel. Recently, lighting scientists (yes, they exist) have dissected the specific wavelengths of electric light to better understand how they affect our bodies.

"Hotels will offer guest rooms with lights that help us to get over jet lag in a few hours instead of days, spas will introduce treatments using lights to strengthen and heal our immune systems, and airport 'Light Lounges' will use spectrums that promote mental alertness, to get work done, or relax the body for rest," says Fred Maxik, the founder of Lighting Science, a company that is behind some of the recent discoveries. There are good implications for the environment. This new lighting uses 80 percent less energy from fossil fuels than incandescent lights and is nontoxic. Wildlife may reap benefits. Beach resorts with floodlights that have disoriented nesting sea turtles can install beams that enable nature lovers to see the turtles at night while tuning out harmful effects to the animals. Like all brave new technology, there are some what-ifs to ponder. But the future looks bright.

■ FOLLOW COSTAS CHRIST ON TWITTER @COSTASCHRIST.



The daily queue for gelato at Come il Latte

LOCAL FLAVOR

Italian Scoop

WHERE TO GET YOUR GELATO LICKS IN ROME By AMANDA RUGGERI

IN ITALY, A LAND of such strict culinary customs that sprinkling Parmesan on your pizza is practically a crime, only one food is excepted from the no-eating-while-walking rule: gelato. On warm evenings, Rome's locals stroll the cobblestoned streets, cones and cups in hand.

However you eat it, gelato means Italian tradition—one that differs from industrial,

American-style ice cream. Gelato contains less butterfat and less air and comes 10 degrees warmer.

About 2,000 gelaterias exist in Rome. Most use additives, thickeners, and synthetic flavorings—yes, even those that call themselves *artigianale* (artisanal). To gauge a gelato's quality, ask to see the list of ingredients, says Claudio Torcè, the mastermind behind one of the city's best gelaterias. "Count how many additives there are. Because true gelato doesn't have a single one."

Torcè's **Il Gelato** features creative concoctions like black sesame and chili-and-chocolate. Natives also flock to **Fatamorgana**, where all-natural flavors (left) include combinations such as pear and Gorgonzola. For molto rich gelato, head to **Come il Latte**, whose name ("like milk") says it all—fresh cream accounts for two-thirds of each scoop. Top off your Sicilian pistachio with melted chocolate or zabaglione-flavored whipped *panna* (cream).

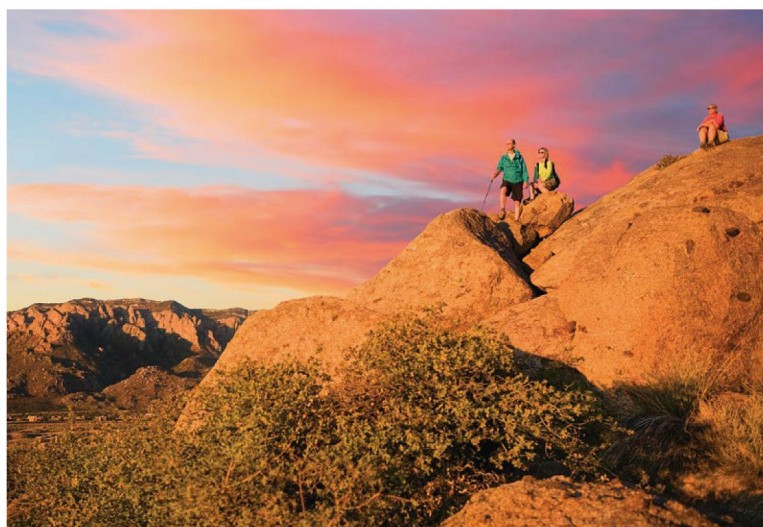


ATLAS

Rome, Italy



During the G8 summit in 2009, Malia and Sasha Obama made blackberry and banana gelato in the kitchen of Giolitti. Opened in 1890, the gelateria is one of Rome's oldest.



See Yourself in New Mexico

You'll wonder why you'd never been before. Spruce green forests. White desert sands. A palette of earth tones in the cultural meccas of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Taos. Inspiration from the Anasazi to O'Keeffe. Thriving pueblos centuries old. Light splintering off snowy mountain peaks, refracting in crystal blue skies. Native American, Spanish, and Anglo architecture, tradition, and cuisine. You'll be making plans to return.

Photos: Michael Barley (top right, bottom right)



Native American History

Start in the center of an ancient world. Some of the country's most impressive ruins lie spread along a 17-mile-long canyon at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, where the Ancestral Puebloans built a complex network of houses, roads, and canals between A.D. 850 and 1250. Check out Chaco on guided tours, trails, campfire talks, and night-sky programs.

To continue the Native American story, visit some of the many pueblos, rich in history and culture. Taos and mesa-topping Acoma, each roughly a thousand years old, both claim title as the country's oldest, continuously inhabited settlement. Other sites include Laguna, Isleta, Nambe, Picuris, Zuni, and the Mescalero Apache Reservation. For a fascinating look into pueblo life, visit during feast days, when tribes celebrate their language, culture, and religion.

Culture Galore

Find more cultural treasures—ranging from dinosaurs to conquistadors, folk art to fine art, ancient pottery to rocket sleds—at the state's many museums. Santa Fe alone boasts dozens. And for specialized interests, don't miss the New Mexico Museum of Space History, in Alamogordo; the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, in Las Cruces; and the National Hispanic Cultural Center, in Albuquerque.

Visit history on location at places like the Coronado Historic Site, where the 16th-century explorer wintered during his search for the seven golden cities of Cibola; the Lincoln Historic Site, scene of a five-day battle that included Billy the Kid; and the Bosque Redondo Memorial, at Fort Sumner, where thousands of Navajo were imprisoned in the 1860s.



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True Adventures

What a menu to choose from. You could start with Carlsbad Caverns National Park, well worth a detour into the weathered foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains. One of the world's largest cavern systems, Carlsbad is impressive below and aboveground. Explore the magnificent limestone grottoes, millions of years in the making, and then hike among rugged canyons and rocky, cactus-studded slopes.

Other outdoor adventures await in every corner of the state: Bike or ski in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, paddle the Rio Grande, go ballooning above the sweeping plains, or cast a line in one of many clear rivers and streams. Think of an activity and New Mexico will provide the perfect backdrop. newmexico.org

Enchanting Albuquerque

For an authentic Southwestern experience, stay awhile in Albuquerque. Vibrant arts, diverse cultures, world-class events, and offbeat attractions continue to shape the story of the state's largest city.

Starting in historic Old Town, you have options among more than a hundred shops, galleries, and restaurants. Narrow streets, cobbled alleys, and small courtyards fan from a leafy central plaza. Among these attractions, the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History displays more than 400 years of Rio Grande Valley history. The state's



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most visited attraction, nearby ABQ BioPark encompasses an aquarium, a beach with lakes for fishing and pedal boating, and a zoo and botanic garden that both host a summer concert series highlighting local and regional talent. Film fans will want to tour sites from such TV shows as *Breaking Bad* and *In Plain Sight*, and movies like *The Book of Eli*, *Crazy Heart*, and *Lone Ranger*. ItsATrip.org

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

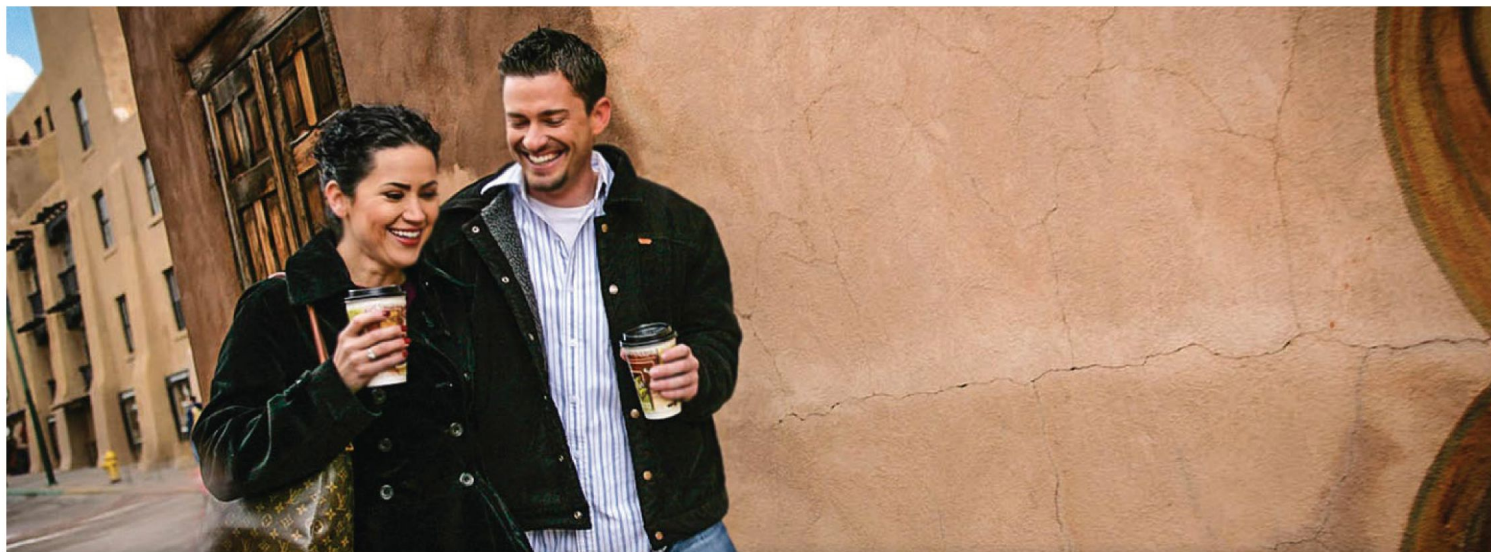
Every October, a flotilla of hot-air and gas balloons ascends from 365-acre Balloon Fiesta Park. Thrill to the roar of hundreds of burners, as the giant teardrops and special shape balloons come to life before liftoff. Come at dawn or dusk, when a velvet blue sky and soft "jewel box" light make for a photographer's dream. The "Albuquerque Box," a combination of October weather patterns and local geography, often lets balloonists make round-trips.

Started in 1972 with a mere 13 balloons, the world's premier balloon event now draws more than 600 balloonists and over 750,000 guests. North America's largest annual international event is also considered the world's most photographed. The mass flights of these colorful giants create lasting memories. Concessions, arts and crafts, and musical entertainment complement this nine-day festival, which will be held October 4-12, 2014. balloonfiesta.com



Capital Times in Santa Fe

The chief custodian of New Mexico's beloved multicultural heritage, Santa Fe perches at 7,000 feet in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The heart of this art-struck town is the historic Plaza, where Native American artisans spread blankets to display silver-and-turquoise jewelry and other handicrafts. The surrounding shops, restaurants, museums, and churches provide a complete package of indoor New Mexico.



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You could spend a week on museums: the New Mexico History Museum and Palace of the Governors, which dates from the early 1600s; the New Mexico Museum of Art, holding works by Georgia O'Keeffe and stars of the state's art colonies; the Museum of International Folk Art, one of the world's top showcases of folk art, with over 130,000 artifacts; and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. The intimate San Miguel Mission, started in 1610, ranks as the country's oldest church structure.

Events paying tribute to Santa Fe's storied past include Battlefield New Mexico, a reenactment of the most important Civil War engagement in the Southwest; the Santa Fe Century Ride, a hundred-mile bike trek through old mining towns; the Eldorado Studio Tour, featuring some 90 artists of stained glass, digital art, fiber arts, photography, and more; and the Santa Fe Opera, a festival of popular and new opera productions. SantaFe.org

A Famous Hotel

A cherished landmark of Southwestern hospitality, La Fonda on the Plaza has been welcoming travelers since 1929. The distinctive influences of architects John Gaw Meem and Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter meet the eye at every turn. The hotel's marriage of Old World charm and contemporary luxury make it the quintessential base for Santa Fe vacations, wedding, and meetings.

La Fonda recently completed an extensive multimillion-dollar renovation. Each sumptuously appointed room features a one-of-a-kind headboard, hand-painted by a local artist, as well as handcrafted furnishings and original artwork. Many rooms offer cozy fireplaces and spectacular views of the city. After settling in, relax—outside or in—at the Bell Tower Bar, a romantic retreat serving up breathtaking sunsets. lafondasantafe.com



New Mexico Fun for Everyone

Five things to do right now!

1. Ascend the heights aboard the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, the country's longest narrow-gauge railway.
2. Raft the Rio Chama, a gentler alternative to the Rio Grande.
3. Explore an active volcano and an Ice Age cave in Albuquerque's New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.
4. Stay at a dude ranch and ride horseback through fabled lands of Apaches and outlaws.
5. Take in stunning scenery on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway.

For more ideas, go to newmexico.org/things-to-do.



Authenticity. Each newly renovated guest room has original art, tile murals and painted headboards - all crafted by local artists. Located on the historic Santa Fe Plaza.

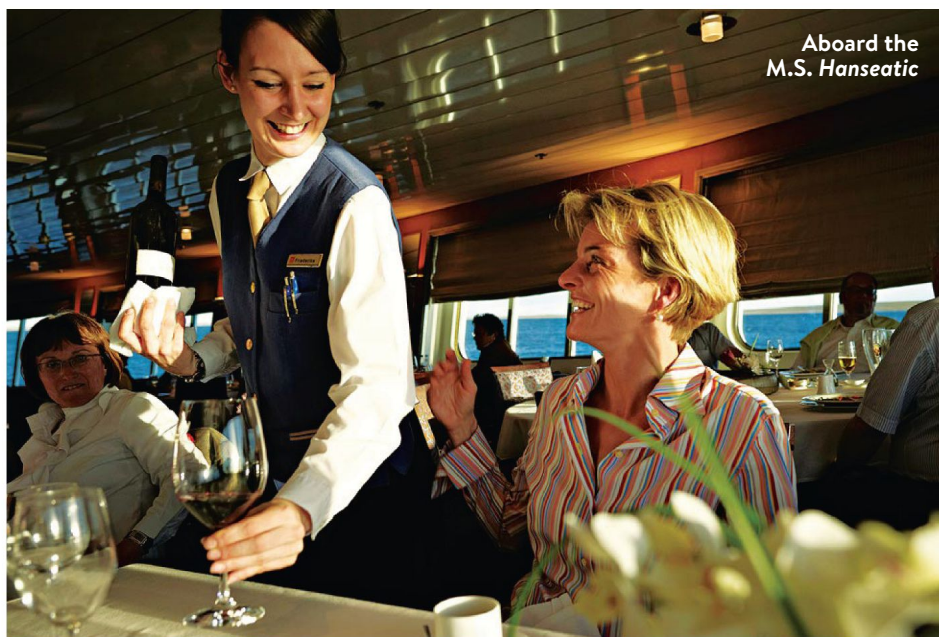
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PROBLEM SOLVED

A Tip for Your Next Cruise

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Q. I'm going on a cruise. How much should I figure for tipping? You might not have to figure anything. Many major cruise lines now add a gratuity of around \$12 per passenger, per day. The latest to take the auto-tipping route, Royal Caribbean, quietly made the switch last spring. Today, the problem isn't really how much to tip; it's more a question of what to do if you don't want to tip. After all, for some of us old-timers, a tip is earned. "Passengers can go along with the cruise line's suggested tipping guidelines," says Stewart Chiron, an industry-watcher. "Depending on the level of service, passengers can adjust up or down." You can visit the guest services desk and request that the tip be lowered or eliminated if you think the service was awful. But requiring passengers to opt out of tips is as absurd as it sounds, and fortunately, the auto-tipping practice may be taking on water. Proposed U.S. legislation would put cruise

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Editor at Large
Christopher Elliott is our consumer advocate and ombudsman; he has helped countless readers fix their trips over the past 15 years.

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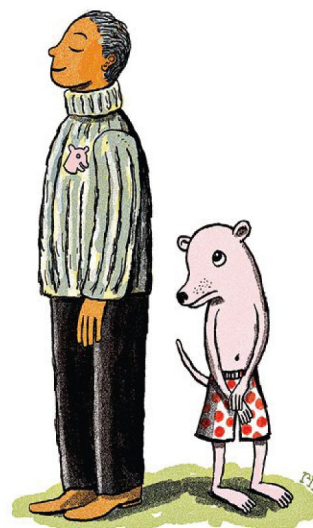
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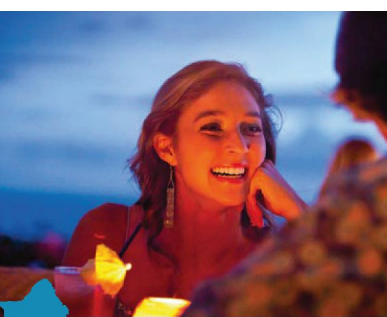
line practices under tighter government control, and it might require cruise lines to remove the "optional" gratuity from your bill.

Q. I bought some biltong at the Johannesburg airport and was told I could take it into the U.S. But it got confiscated at customs. What gives? Good thing you declared it or you could have risked a fine of up to \$10,000 in addition to the confiscation of the biltong. (For the uninitiated, biltong is a dried, salted snack made from beef or exotic game meats such as impala.) Alas, bringing fresh, dried, or canned meat from most foreign countries into the U.S. is generally not allowed as it could carry diseases, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy and foot-and-mouth disease. And please, never trust the airport vendor to give you agricultural importation advice. For the official word on whether your meat is allowed into the U.S., visit www.cpb.gov (then click on "Travel").

STRANGE PLANET

LOST MARBLES International competitors get their Good Friday off to a rolling start at the annual British and World Marbles Championship, held every year at the Greyhound pub in Tinsley Green, England. **PARK IT HERE** When it comes to leafy retreats, few cities can top Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, whose core covers some 4,200 acres—about five times the size of New York's Central Park. **FORE!** If you've ever wondered what all those retirees down in Florida are up to, the state's nearly 1,500 golf courses—highest in the U.S.—should give you a clue. **PLAYING POSSUM** One of the most unusual souvenirs to bring home from New Zealand is clothing woven with possum fur, said to be warmer and lighter than sheep's wool and cashmere. **HIGH-TECH DOUGH** The new \$100 U.S. bill issued last October is the latest effort to thwart counterfeiting crooks such as those in Peru, now the biggest source of fake U.S. currency. **TO THE POINT** One of the shortest geographic terms you'll find anywhere is the Swedish name for river or stream, which is the one-letter word "Ä" (pronounced O). —Paul Martin





ADVENTURE 101

Down Underwater

SNORKELING AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF By JILL ROBINSON

"IMMERSING YOURSELF in the Great Barrier Reef is the best way to see how fragile it is," says Ben Southall, who has served as the reef's honorary "caretaker of islands" and retraced Captain Cook's route of discovery there, by kayak. The largest coral reef ecosystem in the world, it stretches for 1,430 miles off the Queensland coast and contains 2,000 individual reefs. "It's the vastness and marine life that draws people in," says Southall.

WHERE TO DIVE IN

Approximately one million visitors dive or snorkel the Great Barrier Reef each year. While there are many access points, Southall has three favorites that show the reef's diversity.

From Port Douglas: Head to the Low Isles, about 15 miles away by boat. The coral cays sheltered by reef are home to schools of angel-fish and clownfish, and branching soft corals.

From Cairns: Visit the Agincourt Reef, part of the ribbonlike coral reefs in the outer edge, with sea turtles, stands of elkhorn coral, and a wealth of color due to the clarity of the water.

In the Whitsunday Islands: Langford Reef is easy to get to from the beach. During an hour-long snorkel, you can see up to 50 different types of coral and creatures like the hump-headed Maori wrasse, the green turtle, and enormous parrotfish.

SNORKEL BUDDIES

For guided reef day-trips (from beginner to advanced), often with a marine biologist on board to offer tips and answer questions, book a boat tour from Cairns or Port Douglas. Outfitters provide snorkeling instruction, gear, and reef access (from \$95).

ESSENTIAL GEAR

Outfitters and rental shops provide equipment (mask, snorkel, and fins) in a variety of sizes. Southall



Beneath the sea

suggests trying the mask on in the water to make sure there are no leaks. If you're spending more than two days snorkeling, you may want to pack your own mask, snorkel, fins, and sun shirt (to keep from getting sunburned) for comfort.

Bring a waterproof camera to capture the underwater views. "The warm, shallow water has more clarity, so even with an inexpensive camera, you're likely to get good shots. Most aquatic life congregates around structures. Sea turtles and Queensland groupers are curious and will often get up close for a photo." Purchase and study fish identification cards so you know what you're seeing.

WHEN TO GO

October through November are considered the best months for sunny days, warm water, and calm seas. Catch a snippet of whale song underwater between mid-June and late October, when humpback whales migrate along the Queensland coast.

ATLAS

Great Barrier Reef, Australia



If the reef's main chunks were plucked from the sea and laid out to dry, the rock could cover all of New Jersey, with coral to spare.

OTHER SNORKEL SPOTS

1) **Belize's Great Blue Hole** features reef and nurse sharks, and giant barrel sponges; 2) **Bonaire National Marine Park** has 60 sites accessible from shore and a guided program with tours to Klein Bonaire to glimpse seahorses.

HANG TEN.
HANG LOOSE.
HANG OUT.

Surf Lessons

Shopping

Hike Lē'ahi (Diamond Head)

Farm-to-Table Cuisine

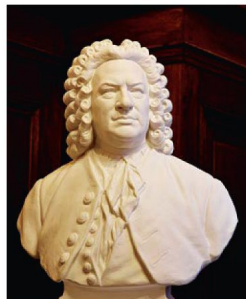
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WORLD CALENDAR

Spring Events Fit for Royalty



BACK TO BACH
THURINGIA BACH FESTIVAL,
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS,
THURINGIA, GERMANY,
APRIL 11-MAY 4

Hear the music of J. S. Bach played where he lived and created, at about 70 concerts staged in venues related to the composer's life. Thuringia's annual musical tribute to its native son begins in private homes, where locals host intimate concerts on the Long Night of Hausmusik (April 11). The 2014 festival theme, "Father and Son," honors the 300th anniversary of the birth of Bach's son Carl Philipp Emanuel, also a musician and composer.



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT
KING'S NIGHT AND DAY, AMSTERDAM, APRIL 25-26

With Willem-Alexander's ascension to the throne in 2013, the Netherlands Koninginnedag (Queen's Day) holiday becomes Koningsdag (King's Day) for the first time ever. The royal revelry begins the night before, so arrive early.



QUARTERS FOR THE BOY KING
OPENING OF THE KING TUT
REPLICA TOMB, VALLEY OF
THE KINGS, EGYPT,
LATE APRIL

Why travel all the way to Egypt to see a replica of King Tut's tomb? For one thing, there's more to see (including an authentic reproduction of the gilded coffin, above) in the faithfully re-created look-alike, designed to provide unprecedented interior views. More important, the replica helps protect the real thing (located 1.5 miles away) from tourist-borne bacteria, moisture, and mold.



UNITING THE TRIBES
THE GATHERING OF THE NATIONS POWWOW,
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, APRIL 24-26

Follow the sound of the drums to North America's biggest powwow. Some 3,000 indigenous dancers, drummers, and singers as well as hundreds of artists, crafters, and traders will represent more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States.



LONDON'S SUPER TOWER OF STEEL
SOUTH PLAZA OPENING, QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK, LONDON, APRIL 1

Both maligned as the "Eye-full Tower" and celebrated as a feat of precision engineering, the cherry red ArcelorMittal Orbit (an icon of the 2012 Olympic Games) anchors the new South Plaza, activity hub of East London's 226-acre Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Love it or hate it, the United Kingdom's tallest (375 feet) piece of public art delivers stellar city views from its observation deck.

AMIN AKHTAR/ALFREDUX (BUST), FRANS LEEMEN/REDUX (CROWD), SERTS/GETTY IMAGES (SARCOPHAGUS), STEVEN ST. JOHN (CHILD), ANDY WAGER (TOWER)

PEAK EXPERIENCES

WITH TIM MEDVETZ,
HOST OF NAT GEO WILD'S "GOING WILD"

AND

MICHAEL AND KYM COOK
AT THE POLE CREEK WILDERNESS

WHEN TIM MEDVETZ SHATTERED HIS BODY AND CRACKED HIS SKULL IN A NEAR-FATAL MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT IN 2001, HE WAS NOT EXPECTED TO WALK AGAIN. A YEAR LATER, HE WAS CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST.

NOW, ON "GOING WILD," TIM IS TAKING ORDINARY PEOPLE STUCK IN AN EXTRAORDINARY RUT—AND THROWING THEM TO THE WOLVES. PART EXPEDITION, PART INTERVENTION, IT'S A JOURNEY WHERE THEY WILL EXPLORE REMOTE, CHALLENGING LOCALES AND REDISCOVER THEMSELVES.



IN THIS EPISODE we meet Michael and Kym Cook, whose marriage has survived many ups and downs. Michael has lost his construction business, necessitating that Kym work two jobs as well as take care of all the cooking, housework, and kids' activities. Both admit that their marriage is in need of serious repair.

Tim takes the Cooks on a harrowing three-day hike through the Pole Creek Wilderness, in southwestern Idaho, where they'll interact with rattlesnakes, climb treacherous boulder fields, and endure both 100-plus-degree temperatures and freezing flowing water. "They'll go through hell physically," says Tim.

It's the ultimate test of their stamina, and their relationship. But there's a method to Tim's madness: the Cooks will have to work as a team to get through this ordeal. With so many setbacks in store, will Michael and Kym learn to rely on each other again—and **LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST?**



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At Home in Ireland

FIVE MANOR HOUSES WHERE YOU'LL FIND
WARM HOSPITALITY AND A YARN OR TWO



The ancestral seat
of the kings of
Connaught, Clonalis
House welcomes
overnight guests.
Opposite: A resident
rooms Hilton Park.

BY TURTLE BUNBURY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACE RIVERS

If

YOU HITCH A RIDE on the back of one of the black crows that constantly wing through Irish skies, you will spy hundreds of castles and mansions sprawling below. A century ago, Ireland had more than

7,000 Big Houses, as the Irish call these stately homes. They ranged from handsome rectories for clergy to audacious architectural standouts built by the ruling Anglo-Irish aristocracy. With the creation of the Irish Free State in the early 1920s, these country estates quickly fell out of favor; many were destroyed during the Irish Civil War.

Nowadays it's rare to find one in the hands of the family that built it. As the late Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen said, owning a Big House constitutes "something between a predicament and a *raison d'être*." One way owners have kept their houses going is by opening them up to paying guests. I've long been fascinated with Ireland's vanishing heritage, so I set out over a summer to visit five classic Irish homes in which you can now overnight with the lords and ladies of the manor for a taste of life in a Big House.

HOSPITALITY SPRINGS

Ballyvolane House, County Cork

"OH, THERE HAVE BEEN many lively nights around this table down through the centuries," says our Ballyvolane host, Justin Green, fondly patting the mahogany as dinner is served. My fellow guests at Ballyvolane are a family of five Chinese Americans on a whirlwind tour of Europe in celebration of an important birthday for Kitchi, their matriarch.

The long rays of an Irish summer sunset dapple the red, shamrock-patterned walls of the dining room. Through broad windows, we glimpse Friesian cattle grazing in buttercup-filled meadows and, in a distant haze, the rippling hills of East Cork. "Ballyvolane" translates as "place of the springing heifer" and, sure enough, a young cow performs a dutiful skip.

Originally built for Sir Richard Pyne, a lord chief justice of Ireland, and completed in 1728, the wisteria-draped Ballyvolane got an Italianate makeover in 1847 and is now a flagship of Hidden Ireland, a group of family-owned Irish castles, manors, and mansions that have opened their doors to paying guests. One of the quirky pleasures of Hidden Ireland hospitality is that all guests dine together.

Kitchi's family turn out to be great fun. It's the last night of their grand tour, and the banter runs ceaselessly. We contrast the lives of the Chinese and Irish emigrants who built North America's railroads. We compare Oliver Cromwell's conquest of Ireland with China's Cultural Revolution.

Justin gamely fields questions and spins fresh ones back. Alongside his wife, Jenny, he's racked up nearly 20 years of looking after guests at hotels and resorts in Hong Kong,





Despite the ceremonial sword, a sideboard at Hilton Park hints at the convivial entertaining the Maddens have mastered here over 200 years.

Dubai, and Bali, before returning to southwest Ireland to take on the family home in 2004. In addition to the six cozy guest rooms in the main house, the Greens offer furnished luxury tents for rent on the estate grounds in summer. This evening, while Justin hosts the table, Jenny is cooking in the kitchen.

Twelve-year-old Toby Green, the eldest of their three children, has already built up an impressive international network of younger Ballyvolane guests. “He has pen pals all over the world,” says Justin.

As the evening draws to a close, Kitchi gives her verdict on the trip: “For me, the big highlight has been...feeding the piglets this morning.”

The piglets are five saddlebacks that snuffle in a stable adjoining the main house. With their mother and some Muscovy ducks, they are the principal beneficiaries of any excess scraps from the Ballyvolane kitchen.

In fact, the kitchen has vaulted Ballyvolane into the upper ranks of Ireland’s places to stay. Homegrown or locally sourced ingredients drive the menus, including the succulent halibut we are eating, recently hooked by a fisherman on the Beara Peninsula. All fruits and vegetables come from a three-acre garden bordered by 14-foot-high sandstone walls. Orderly rows yield asparagus, sea kale, spring onion, rainbow chard, beetroot, and potato. And rhubarb—which Justin so deftly converted into a rhubarb martini when I went for a stroll before dinner, passing under a glorious arch of laburnum that leads to terraced gardens and a croquet lawn with a dovecote at its center. The ground beneath rolls out a seasonal carpet—snowdrops in February, then daffodils, bluebells, rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias over the ensuing months.

The following day, Kitchi tells me she feels as though she has “just stayed with friends.” Justin isn’t surprised. “The advantage of opening up only a handful of bedrooms is that you can give guests your complete attention,” he says.

With that, he sits in front of a Blüthner baby grand and starts playing an old Percy French music hall tune. Silhouetted between Ionic pillars and classic statuary in a hall the color of burnt orange, he’s still playing when the next guests arrive.

■ Six rooms, from \$130 per person, including breakfast. “Glamping” in a bell tent, from \$102. Dinner: \$75 (book in advance).

ROCK OF AGES

Clonalis House, County Roscommon

IT’S NOT THE SORT OF ROCK you’d ordinarily look at twice. A misshapen chunk of limestone, weighing maybe 300 pounds, sits near the front door of Clonalis House, a 45-room Victorian Italianate villa built in 1878 on a 700-acre wooded estate in northwest Ireland.

But step back a thousand years and this was one of the most important rocks in Ireland. It’s the Inauguration Stone, upon which some 30 O’Conor kings were crowned. As kings of Connaught, they ruled over a realm that ran from the Irish midlands to the Atlantic coast. The last “high king” of Ireland was an O’Conor, and should the kingdom of Ireland ever be resurrected, the O’Conor don—the present head of the family—is considered the presumptive claimant to the throne. Piers O’Conor Nash, the owner of Clonalis, is not the O’Conor don.

But his uncle was. This same uncle, a Jesuit priest, bequeathed him Clonalis in 1981.

Piers eventually left his job as a high-flying Dublin financier to take on full-time management of Clonalis with his wife, Marguerite, and their three children. A grand piano and gilded mirrors in the drawing room provide a taste of the Hibernian opulence echoed in the four guest bedrooms upstairs.

I’m a sucker for ancestral portraits, and I could barely walk a foot along Clonalis’s marble-pillared hall without stopping to consider Phelim O’Conor, who perished horribly in battle 700 years ago, or Hugo O’Conor, founder of Tucson, Arizona. “They keep me company when I’m alone,” Marguerite confides, as we sit in the library warming ourselves by an ingenious tripartite fireplace, with compartments each for logs and peat.

The O’Conors also maintain a small museum in the house. I expected rather dull land deeds and a few fossilized horse-shoes. I didn’t expect King Charles I’s death warrant, albeit a facsimile, complete with the signature “O. Cromwell.” Nor did I anticipate the harp of the celebrated 18th-century blind bard Turlough O’Carolan or a copy of the Old Testament from 1550.

A chapel is tucked into the back of the hall, with the original 18th-century altar where the O’Conors secretly worshipped at a time when practicing Catholicism was a criminal offense.

My guest room turns out to be as spacious as a squash court, with a four-poster at its center fit for royalty. A crystal decanter full of sherry waits upon a walnut desk. The bedroom windows look over the parklands where a solitary Limousin bull roams. In the morning, the glow of the rising sun rebounds off his tan hide and makes me think of a vanished age in which the O’Conors ruled the kingdom of Connaught.

■ Four rooms, from \$129 per person, including breakfast. Dinner: \$68 (book in advance).

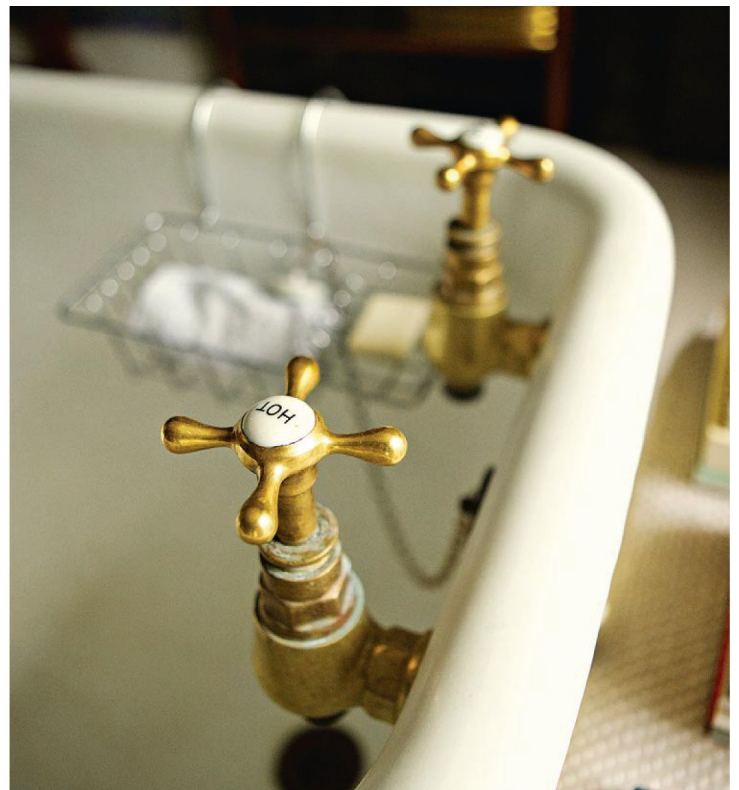
ARTS HAVEN IN BORDER COUNTRY

Hilton Park, County Monaghan

DANNY MADDEN is not yet six years old, and already he’s a dead ringer for his great-great-grandfather. I spot this doppelgänger dressed up as a hedgehog shortly after he crawls into Hilton Park’s dining room and halts beneath a marble bust of his forebear.

Little Danny marks the tenth generation to have lived at Hilton Park since Samuel Madden snapped up the land in 1734. Like all Big Houses, Hilton Park was built with entertainment in mind. Approached by a mile-long avenue, the three-story sandstone mansion looks like an Italian palazzo stranded in Irish countryside. The house, known locally as “the Castle,” achieves much of its aesthetic magnificence from a Victorian porte cochere, topped by a stone carving of the Madden family crest. The present house hails from 1734; John Madden expanded it significantly in the 1870s. The industrious John also dug a 135-foot well on the grounds, from which the Maddens still get their water.

The dining room ceiling is stuccoed with oak leaves and braided ropes, a tribute to an ancestor who sailed with Adm. Horatio Nelson. At dinner, my wife, Ally, and I sit around a Georgian mahogany table with Karl and Sonja, a visiting couple from Germany, and Johnny Madden, the evening’s host and



Hilton Park's guests, who have included Samuel Johnson, can soak in a deep antique tub (above). Books collected by seven generations of O'Conors line the library (below) at Clonalis House, where a portrait of Honoria O'Connor (left) hangs in a private upstairs corridor.





A mother and son stroll the hillside above Charles Fort, in Kinsale, a County Cork port town popular for water sports, located an hour's drive from Ballyvolane.



grandfather of Danny. A wood fire crackles in a Neapolitan marble fireplace. “My antecedents were great fighters,” Johnny says. “Mostly among themselves.” His father lost a leg battling the Germans in World War II, he tells us. Karl says his grandfather tried to kill Hitler. It’s OK to discuss the war these days.

Johnny is an eloquent speaker, holding court on topics from Buffalo Bill to Justin Bieber to the tribulations of a drunken butler who swayed through this very room 12 decades ago. Stick a powdered wig on Johnny’s head, and you might be talking to his ancestor Samuel, who tutored Frederick, Prince of Wales, to become one of the 18th century’s greatest patrons of arts and architecture. In recent years, the sheep-grazed fields at Hilton Park have revived that genteel spirit of cultural advocacy by hosting the Flat Lake Literary and Arts Festival, participants of which have included singer Lily Allen, actor Sam Shepard, and the late Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney.

Thousands of teardrop-shaped humps of earth, called drumlins, mark the landscape here in the north of Ireland, left behind by the last ice age. Local soldiers had barely arrived home from World War I when the politicians drew a line through this boggy frontier to delineate the border between Northern Ireland and what would become the Republic of Ireland. For the most part, the Maddens tended to steer clear of politics. “The only government they were concerned with was here at Hilton,” says Johnny.

Johnny and his wife, Lucy, handed over the reins of Hilton Park to their only son, Fred, and his wife, Joanna, in 2011. Trained as a chef in London, Fred has elevated the house’s culinary reputation with menus like tonight’s scallops atop endive, beef fillet with Jerusalem artichoke, and black currant leaf *panna cotta*.

After dinner we head down a hall with a vintage harmonium along one side and the heads of slain impala on the walls, to the family living room. As we sprawl upon chesterfields, Fred and Joanna talk about the challenges they face to keep Hilton rolling for another generation. Their sense of duty is absolute: The show will go on.

As we head up a staircase of Riga oak to our antiques-filled but not fusty guest room, one of six at Hilton, we pass rows of books. My wife plucks a title from a shelf and reads from the cover: “*The Potato Year: 365 Ways of Cooking Potatoes*, by Lucy Madden.” Samuel Madden may have been a bibliophile, but the present-day Maddens take their love of books one step further.

■ Six rooms, from \$224 per person, including breakfast and dinner, and afternoon tea on arrival.

OF KNIGHTS & FALCONS

Temple House, County Sligo

RODERICK PERCEVAL occasionally rows his guests out on reed-fringed Temple House Lake for some pike fishing. “We promise lots of enthusiasm but very little expertise,” he warns. But the real catch here lies on the banks of the 200-acre lake: the romantic ruins of an 800-year-old castle built by the Knights Templar, rising up through the morning mist like a panorama from Celtic mythology. Behind the lakeside castle stands the remaining gable of a 40-foot tower, its ivy-encrusted walls built in the 14th century. To top it all off, a third ruin wraps

around both castle and tower, a redbrick manor built in 1627 for a Catholic family.

The Percevals came into these lands in the northwest of Ireland when an ancestor married into the family 360 years ago. They were part of a closely linked network of families, mostly English in origin, that dominated rural Irish life in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Built in 1820, Georgian-style Temple House is one of the largest in Ireland. Roderick and his wife, Helena, have opened up six rooms to paying guests, including my Castle Room, with its view of the 5,000-year-old megalithic Carrowkeel tombs on a far hilltop, and the appropriately named Half Acre room, with its small annex “where husbands sleep if they’ve been naughty,” suggests Roderick.

Forty-four-year-old Roderick has lived at Temple House and its thousand-acre estate most of his life. His sense of ease is contagious. He urges visitors to treat the Big House as if it were their own, so I do. I roam around the farm buildings, meadows, gardens, and ruins. The Atlantic Ocean draws surfers to its shores just nine miles from here. County Sligo’s pastoral idyll especially inspired poet W. B. Yeats, who immortalized this part of Ireland in poems like “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” and the play *The Land of Heart’s Desire*. In the evening light, the Temple House trees appear at their best, particularly a copse of beech planted in 1798. Roderick regularly adds new saplings. “Every generation has to leave its mark,” he says.

If he needs a hand on the farm, Roderick sometimes invites guests to help. During lambing season, some visitors have found themselves out in the fields in Wellington boots, ushering sheep from one pasture to another.

After asking “Have you ever had a falcon land on your hand?” Roderick sends me to an eagle sanctuary on the edge of the estate. “Life is never quite the same again afterwards,” he says. I’m treated to an hour-long flying demonstration by regal eagles and owls. The falcon sweeps by my outstretched arm and opts instead for the hand of a teenage boy whose eyes duly widen.

■ Six rooms, from \$95 per person, including breakfast. Dinner: \$64 (book in advance).

THE GODDESS IN THE DUNGEON

Huntington Castle, County Carlow

THE PAIR OF EGYPTIANS painted on the door should have given the game away. But I’d passed them several times without noticing the handle. Alex Durdin Robertson pushes the secret door open and turns to me with a mischievous smile. “Come on down.”

When you find yourself in a 17th-century castle like Huntington, you’re entitled to expect a dungeon, with maybe a few rusty iron chains dangling from the damp stone walls. What you wouldn’t necessarily anticipate is a temple dedicated to Isis, the ancient Egyptian goddess of motherhood and fertility.

But that is precisely where Alex has led me. For the next 30 minutes, I amble uncertainly around an incense-scented array of golden centaurs and exotic urns placed alongside zodiac drapes and shrines to the Virgin Mary, Lakshmi, and a host of



Ballyvolane offers upscale camping in bell tents (above left) during the summer months, when homegrown bounty includes potatoes (below). Fred Madden and his wife, Joanna (above), are the hands-on hosts of Hilton Park. Windows at Temple House (left) look out on terraced gardens.





County Carlow's Huntingdon Castle occupies the grounds of an abandoned medieval priory. Visitors can still explore the ruins.

other feminine icons. "My great-aunt Olivia had a powerful dream that God was a female," explains Alex. "She interpreted it as a vision. My grandfather agreed, and together they set up the Fellowship of Isis in 1976."

Huntington has always had an otherworldly ambience. As family lore goes, just over a hundred years ago, shortly before Olivia's birth, a meteorite fell to earth and landed near the avenue of French lime trees that leads to the Big House. The rock reportedly glowed for weeks, providing a warm perch for crows which, as any Isis devotee will tell you, are the avian messengers of Morrigan, the ancient Irish goddess of battle and strife.

Set in the Slaney Valley at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains, the Jacobean castle is located just off the main street of the winsome village of Clonegal. Battlements surmount the fairy-tale fortress, topped with a heraldic Irish flag. This was the view that first grabbed filmmaker Stanley Kubrick's attention when he zeroed in on Huntington as a location for his 1975 film *Barry Lyndon*.

The original tower house was built in 1625 for Sir Laurence Esmonde, an ancestor of Alex who was among the most influential landowners in southeast Ireland. He covered the costs by placing a toll on a nearby bridge across the River Derry. And for any troublemakers who didn't want to pay, the dungeon was also his idea.

The Blue Room, where I sleep, features oak paneling, intricately embroidered crewelwork curtains, and a 17th-century

four-poster. Change the lightbulb to an oil lamp, and it could be 1625. This is one of just three guest bedrooms, pitched within a warren of creaky corridors, dark alcoves, and zigzag stairwells bedecked in oriental oddities, chain mail suits, and faded tapestries.

Alex pops his head through the dining room door moments after I have forked in the last of my breakfast of scrambled eggs. He's been up for hours, helping his wife, Clare, get their two toddler sons ready for the day ahead.

"Let's go see the champions," he says. I assume he means the potbellied pigs, Boris and Hamlet, both as gray as the turrets above us. But the champs turn out to be over a dozen oak, hickory, and buckeye trees, hailed for girth and height alike. A flock of Lleyn sheep nibble the grass beneath.

As we walk and talk in the arbor, it is clear that for Alex, life is all about his wife, his two sons, and keeping his castle going for another generation. "Inherit, improve, and pass on," he says. "That's the unofficial motto. It's a lot of work, but that's OK if you don't mind working."

■ Three rooms, from \$109 per person. Dinner: \$54 including bottle of wine (book in advance).

TURTLE BUNBURY lives in County Carlow and is a historian and the best-selling author of the *Vanishing Ireland* series. Austin-based **JACE RIVERS** has traveled to 45 countries and finds Irish people "among the friendliest in the world."

THE INSIDER

Staying at an Irish Country House

MANY GRAND ESTATES that take in paying guests are privately owned homes (only a few of which still belong to their original families), so don't necessarily expect typical hotel amenities such as reception desks and room service.

HOW TO BOOK

Most Big Houses are part of either the Hidden Ireland network or the Blue Book Association, which between them account for more than 60 historic castle and manor houses open to overnight stays. Also browse *The Good Hotel Guide*, John and Sally McKenna's *100 Best Places to Stay in Ireland*, and the Discover Ireland website. Book ahead; these houses have a limited number of rooms.

Dinner at the manor, which is sometimes a group affair, can also be reserved at booking. Some houses, particularly those with gardens, welcome day visits, whereas others offer guided tours of the house interior, generally by appointment only.

BEST TIME TO GO

May, June, and September are usually the sunniest, mildest months to visit Ireland. But always be prepared for rain.

BEHIND THE SHOT

SUMMONS TO THE BAR

At a Kilkenny pub, photographer Jace Rivers sat for hours with a man who regaled him with stories. "I was listening keenly, composing unobtrusively, and clicking the shutter discreetly," says Rivers. "The problem was, I couldn't understand a word of what he was saying!" Blame an Irish accent thickened by several pints of Smithwick's.



Kilkenny pub talk



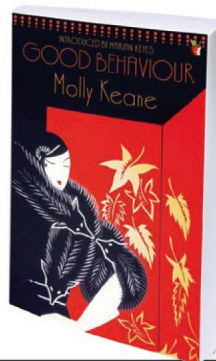
ETIQUETTE

Act as if you're staying with friends of friends, and you're most of the way there. You're not expected to make your own bed, but bear in mind your host may be the one cleaning up when you're out. If there's a hired cleaner, you can leave a tip in the room. Hair dryers and toiletries are usually provided, but you might want to bring your own slippers. In some houses, dogs are free to roam the lower floors. If you're headed for a walk, consider offering to take the dog along as well.

WHAT TO READ

The Big House has its own genre in the rich world of Irish literature. The writing duo

Somerville and Ross inject considerable humor into *The Irish R.M.* series, Elizabeth Bowen conveys poignant gravitas in *The Last September*, and Molly Keane produced dark comic gems such as *Good Behaviour*. Coffee-table tome *The Irish Country House*, by Desmond Fitzgerald and James Peill, is lushly photographed by James Fennell.



ATLAS



In designing the White House, in Washington, D.C., Irishman James Hoban was inspired by Leinster House in Dublin.

Castletown House, Ireland's largest Palladian-style manor, was built for innkeeper's son William Conolly, who became the wealthiest man in Ireland.

When Sir Edward Pakenham of Tullynally Castle was killed at the battle of New Orleans in 1815, his family shipped him home for burial preserved in a barrel of rum.

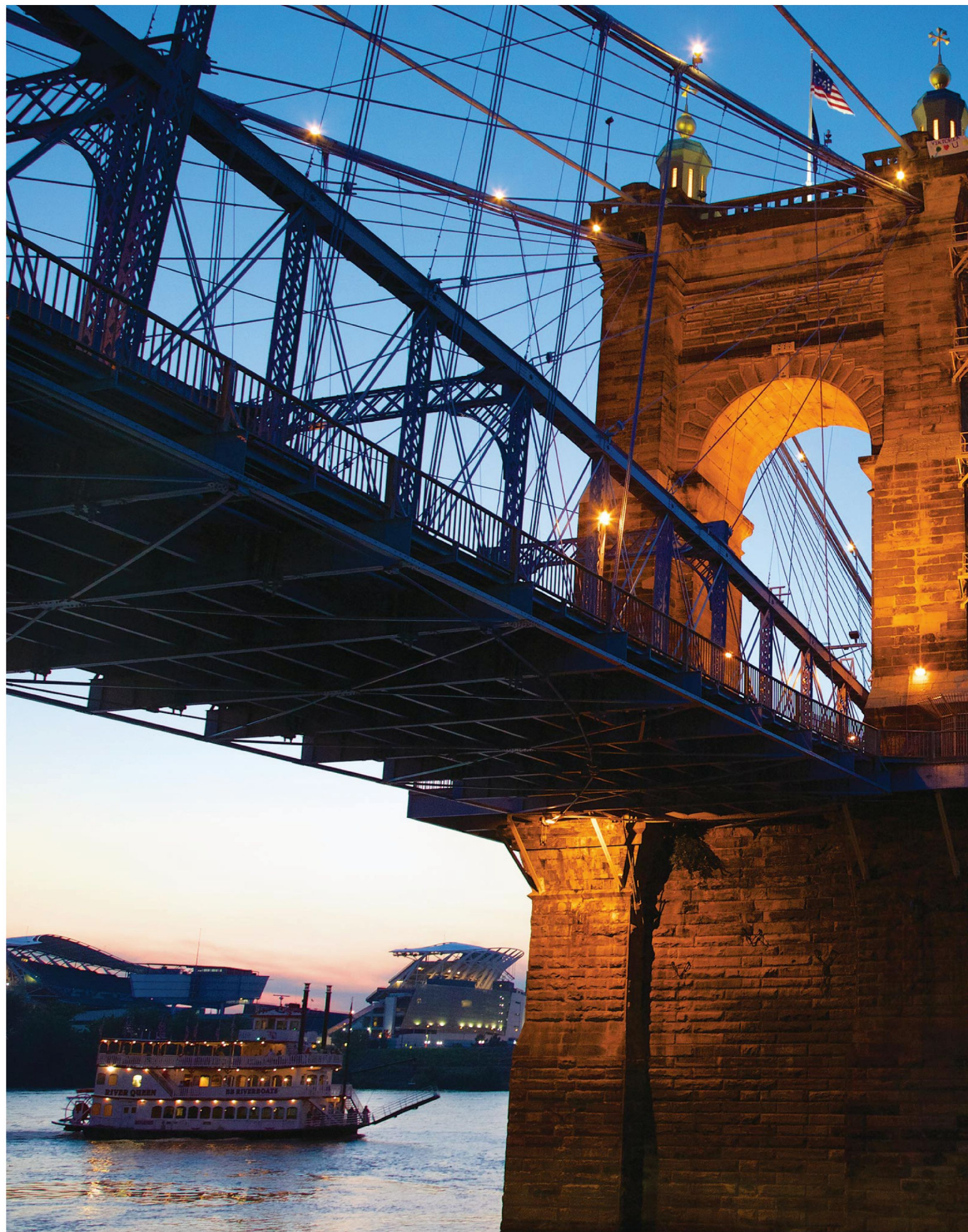
In Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, craft brewers have resurrected old malt houses, cellars, and even pre-Prohibition brand Christian Moerlein.



CINCINNATI CHILL

AN URBAN REVIVAL BREWS IN THE HEARTLAND







BY ANDREW NELSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELISSA FARLOW

The subterranean dank, which no sun has ever warmed, smells like yeast. Its chilly air pinches my neck. A weak light coming from the opening above makes a pool around the ladder I've climbed down, but beyond is pitch black. I tap a flashlight app on my phone, and a vaulted ceiling flickers into view. Is it a Maya temple? An Egyptian tomb? No. I'm in a 19th-century lagering tunnel 45 feet beneath the sidewalks of Cincinnati, Ohio. Victorian breweries fermented and cooled beer in this catacomb. Located in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, the chambers were reopened by American Legacy Tours, a bunch of local guys who like nothing better than to poke into the city's dusty history. And talk beer.

"We had more than 36 breweries in Cincinnati at one time," my guide, Brad Hill, tells me. "A hatchet-toting Carry Nation barreled into town [in 1901] to stop the depravity. She took one look at the tippling—more than 140 saloons on Vine Street—and turned tail and fled," he says. "Prohibition closed them, and the tunnels were forgotten." I feel like Harrison Ford discovering the Lost Temple of Suds.

Indy meets Cincy. Actually, here it's all about "the indies." As much of America decamped for the suburbs or the coasts, artists, craftspeople, and entrepreneurs rebuilt entire Cincinnati neighborhoods alongside impassioned longtimers. When I began hearing about it down in my own adopted renaissance town, New Orleans, I had to see the transformation for myself.



Cincy—or Brooklyn? The Roebling bridge (left), which connects Ohio and Kentucky, opened 16 years before its New York sibling. Findlay Market (above) has long brightened Over-the-Rhine.

AS I SIP BOURBON with a few such pioneers at Japp's, a former wig store on Main Street, the discussion ranges from the whereabouts of Pappy Van Winkle, the famously elusive bourbon from neighboring Kentucky, to the details of the incongruous bar in front of us, made from cabinets that once housed hair destined to crown the heads of robber baron heiresses.

"What's changed? Why Cincy now?" I ask.

"A shift in consciousness," suggests Peggy Shannon, a former New Yorker. Her start-up, Queen City Cookies, provides a coveted treat for locals as well as a taste of the city's new prospects. "I've lived in a lot of high-energy places, and here the excitement's beginning to percolate."

I watch her spout enthusiasm for her new home, and Cincinnati strikes me as a drum major for a parade of heartland towns—from Milwaukee to Indianapolis—now marching to a different beat. Their heritage (rich) and their living costs (relatively cheap) have attracted interest, especially from millennials saddled with job expectations (lower) and college debt (higher). But Cincinnati stands out. Shannon thinks she knows why.

"We offer world-class art, extraordinary architecture, and a get-things-done attitude," she says. "Cincinnati's reputation has gone from musty to must-see."

Certainly, one addition not to miss is 21c Museum Hotel, a ten-story hostelry on Walnut Street. A landmark building that

nuzzles Zaha Hadid's Contemporary Arts Center, 21c is packed with so much modern art guests could be forgiven for thinking they were sleeping in the museum itself.

"We are a museum first and a hotel second," says collection manager Eli Meiners, who tours me around the first two floors, open 24/7 for anyone off the street who wants to look at artists such as Do-Ho Suh and Astrid Krogh. Installations, many by Cincinnatians, occupy every guest floor and change regularly. On mine, the elevator opens upon a life-size sculpture of the singer Madonna heeling her go-go boot through a Picasso. My room is sleek—all lines—except for a four-foot-tall polyurethane penguin as yellow as French's mustard. In the bathroom, hotel designers commissioned local Rookwood Pottery to create a witty series of white tiles brandishing body parts—lips, noses, breasts, belly buttons. I feel a little as if I'm part of the spectacle.

ON A STROLL ABOUT TOWN, Cincinnati shows more tricks up its sleeve. Downtown proves dense, walkable, and handsome—filled with skyscrapers of many eras, from the marble and terra-cotta PNC building, opened in 1913, to the postmodern assemblages of the Proctor & Gamble headquarters. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is here, a testament to the city's crucial role in the Civil War era. And then there's the dazzling art deco Union Terminal, shaped like a band



Balancing act: A few years ago, Over-the-Rhine ranked among the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country. Washington Park is a picture of new harmony, drawing crowds for yoga (above) and other alfresco events, while area murals (opposite) depict resurgence.



ArtWorks



The first major U.S. museum designed by a woman, Zaha Hadid's Contemporary Arts Center illuminates art in motion.



shell, that was the city's train station when it opened in 1933. It now acts as a cultural roundhouse, with six institutions including the Museum of Natural History & Science, the Cincinnati History Museum, and the Duke Energy Children's Museum.

Stacked like library books on an arc of hills, 19th-century town houses form neighborhoods such as Mount Adams, Mount Auburn, and Over-the-Rhine. Walking down to the Ohio River, I find myself at the city's newest attraction: 45-acre Smale Riverfront Park, squeezed between the Reds and Bengals stadiums. It's part of the gazillion-dollar effort, called "the Banks," to reinvent Cincy's neglected waterfront.

Nick Dewald is waiting for me at Moerlein Lager House, a modern beer hall and garden across the street from the park. In their free time Nick and his wife, Lindsay, head up City Flea, a curated market that functions as an analog Etsy—bringing a hundred of the city's makers together with buyers every month. After lunch we go to the park, admiring the fountains and fresh plantings. We rock on metal swings as big as park benches, facing the river and the blue Roebling suspension bridge, the proof of concept for its more famous progeny, the Brooklyn Bridge. I'm sitting on Ohio's front porch.

"Our historic industries were about making things, and that's returning," Dewald explains, citing Losantiville, a group of industrial and furniture designers taking inspiration from Cincinnati's old traditions of wood carving and manufacturing. "And there's beer!" he adds.

In addition to the rebirth of craft beer like that of Bavarian brewmaster Christian Moerlein, Dewald tells me, there's a host of new labels—Mount Carmel, Rivertown, and Rhinegeist, an upstart in the brewery district north of downtown.

"You have to check it out," he says. So I do.

Like so much of this industrial town, the brewery district is filled with mechanical trappings from an earlier time. Pulleys and joists. Brick warehouses. Wood beams. Glazed tile. In Cincy, things whir, creak, and trundle. They don't swoosh or ping. As workmen jackhammer some concrete, Rhinegeist owner Bryant Goulding greets me. He shows me where the tasting room is being readied in a cavernous space with skylights.

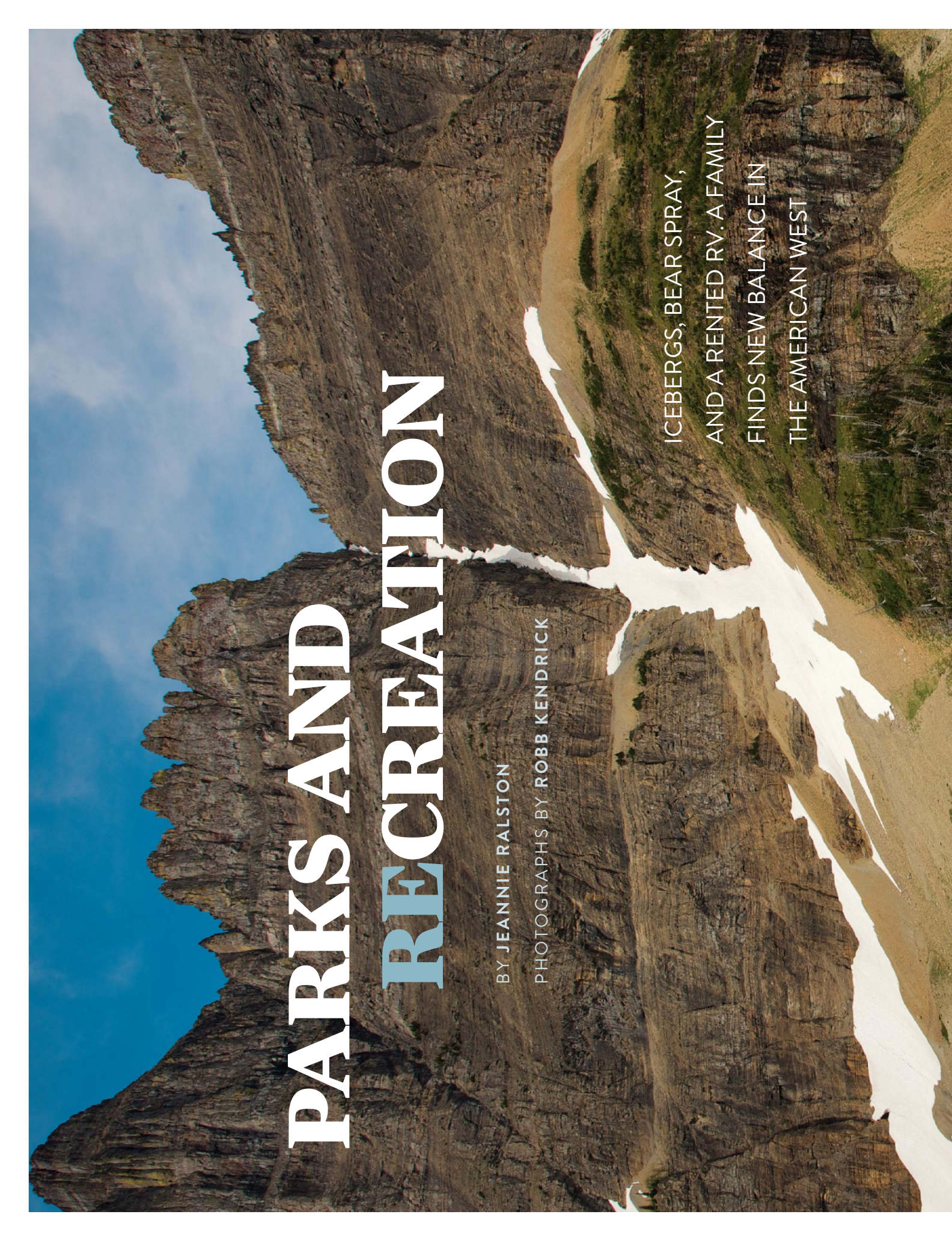
"There's no way this could happen in California—it's too expensive," says the former San Franciscan, who moved here to open Rhinegeist. "But Cincinnati makes dreams come true."

I wish him luck and return downtown, trading industry for glamour—the Netherland Plaza hotel, now a Hilton, in the 49-story Carew Tower. Wandering across the slick marble of the lobby, I nearly break my neck taking in the French art deco: foliated bronze light fixtures, a ram's head fountain, and gilded ceiling murals of leaping gazelles and bow-lipped shepherdesses. It's a concrete sonnet to the jazz age and the best inspiration for a gin martini since Jay Gatsby.

Later I join throngs of people gathered at Fountain Square in front of the "Genius of Water," a nine-foot-tall goddess who crowns the 1871 Tyler Davidson fountain. As night falls she becomes the muse to a rock band in the plaza, electric guitars drowning out the splash of falling water. Everyone lingers as if not wanting the music to end.

"Used to be downtown closed at 8 p.m.," says the Rev. Herschel Willis, a few blocks away at Piatt Park. The smoker

Continued on page 84

A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain valley. The scene features rugged, dark brown rock formations and steep cliffs. Patches of white snow are nestled in the valleys and along the edges of the cliffs. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue. The overall composition is vertical, with the text overlaid on the left side.

PARKS AND RECREATION

BY JEANNIE RALSTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBB KENDRICK

ICEBERGS, BEAR SPRAY,
AND A RENTED RV. A FAMILY
FINDS NEW BALANCE IN
THE AMERICAN WEST



Teens enjoy the ultimate in cool—walking on lake icebergs in Glacier National Park.



Author Jeannie Ralston and her older son plan the day's outing while picnicking by Montana's Flathead River.



Jeb Kendrick prepares to fly-fish in Montana's Blackfoot River, featured in the 1976 novella *A River Runs Through It*.

The Firehole River

through Firehole Canyon, in Yellowstone National Park, behind my sons, Gus, 16, and Jeb, 14. One is a competitive swimmer, the other on a rock-climbing team. They're cutting easily through the rapid toward a ledge from which we'll launch ourselves for a float back downriver. I watch other people wash past, hooting and laughing. They all look younger than I am—like people who bungee jump and believe in their invincibility. As I struggle through the powerful water, I realize I no longer believe in my invincibility. Maybe I'm too old to be doing this. But I yearn to keep up with my sons. Over the years I've done most everything with them—jumped in puddles, ridden roller coasters, skied black-diamond slopes. I've always thought of myself as a “fun” mom. However, they're becoming young men, and it's harder for me to do what they do. This family vacation, a road trip, reminds me that my husband, Robb, and I don't have much time left to travel with our boys before they head out into the world.

We're journeying in a rental RV, a 26-foot-long Coachmen Frelander we've nicknamed the Little Beast. Our itinerary takes us through the best of the West, from Yellowstone, in Wyoming, north to Montana and Glacier National Park. Out

doesn't let me pass. Its churning water, at least ten feet deep here, is pounding me as I cling to a slick rock wall. I'm trying to go upstream

here, empty spaces where clouds cast penumbras over valleys invigorate as much as the tsunami of peaks on the horizon.

We don't have a firm plan; with plenty of campgrounds to choose from, we're following our whims. Robb and I know this proximity to our teenagers presents the risk of meltdowns—which explains the case of wine I've packed—but my hope is that distance from the Internet will draw us together again. That once more I'll be a mom fully plugged into her kids' lives.

“Where you from?” the man at the next campsite calls out, a standard greeting in the RV world. We're in Grant Village campground, on the shore of Yellowstone Lake. The man, who introduces himself as “Wayne from Wisconsin,” sits in a camp chair under an awning extending from his motor home. He's traveling with his wife and three sons, who right now are riding bikes by the lake. Next to him sit a full-size grill and a table covered with a floral tablecloth.

“You're traveling in style,” I say.

“We've done this a time or two,” he answers as he rises to add charcoal to the grill. “The idea is to make it feel like home. Home on the road.” The best part of RVing, he says, is the absence of are-we-there-yet questions. “In a way, we're always there.”

The conversation follows what I'll learn are standard RVing

ON THE IPAD

View a 360-degree panorama of Lower Yellowstone Falls (which are twice as high as Niagara Falls), in Yellowstone National Park.

contours: where we've been, where we're going. When he hears we're hiking the next day, Wayne insists we buy bear repellent. I'd seen signs recommending the spray, so after our dinner of hamburgers and s'mores cooked over our fire pit (Wayne and family grill salmon), we walk to the campground's shop to pick up a canister—and a tablecloth.

The next day we drive up Grand Loop Road for a two-mile hike to Cascade Lake, a pool in an alpine meadow in the center of Yellowstone. The boys stay close behind Robb, who has the bear repellent secured to his belt. We're taking turns carrying the backpack with our lunches because it may attract bears. "We're playing bear roulette," Jeb says as he slips on the pack.

In addition to the Old Faithful geyser, Yellowstone is known for its wildlife. Lamar Valley, which we'd visited earlier, is called North America's Serengeti for its gray wolves (reintroduced in 1995), moose, elk, bison, and bears, both the grizzly and black varieties. Up to 1,200 bears live in the park—one for every three square miles, I calculate. As we walk by fir trees—some full and Christmas-like, some with bark stripped (bear scratchings?)—Robb's camera clunks against the bear repellent's spray button, and a mist of the stuff releases. Into Gus's face. He lets out an "Aaggh" and doubles over, coughing. Thankfully, his throat and eyes clear up within minutes, but we decide we can't trust the spray, so I suggest talking to ward off bears. Loudly. The boys oblige, pretending we're in a horror movie in which a bear picks us off, which prompts Jeb to share that he plans to see scary movies only with dates, so the girls will snuggle with him. Horror leads to science fiction, which leads Gus to say he wants to become an aerospace engineer to design crafts that discover the intelligent life he's sure is out there.

I feel an unexpected gratitude for the bears; it's been a while since Robb and I've had a prolonged look into who our sons are becoming. They speak to us now more as equals, as young men with plans. Yet it's bittersweet; their dreams don't include us.

After days of swimming in rivers, biking, and hiking, hiking, we're visiting Bozeman, Montana. The boys seem antsy here. Which isn't the fault of this gritty town north of Yellowstone where gold miners would stop. Rather, our close quarters may be catching up with us; the boys are fighting over who sleeps where. We have three beds in the RV—a queen in the back for Robb and me, another in the loft above the driver's seat, and





Powered by Earth's inner heat, Yellowstone's colorful West Thumb Geyser Basin steams and glows year-round. Bison (opposite) graze in the grassland of Lamar Valley.



A walk on the wild side takes the Kendrick boys into the forested depths of Glacier National Park.

a full made by pushing bench cushions together in the dining space. It's the least desirable because it involves assembling and dismantling. Jeb is tired of table-bed duty, but Gus contends he should have a couple more days in the loft since he's older.

The upside of RV life is that your living quarters go everywhere with you. That also is the downside. It begins to wear on us that we drive, sleep, cook, eat, shower, and play cards within a 200-square-foot rectangle. Cabin fever is bound to strike. Particularly if the cabin is home to teen siblings whose DNA programs them to twang each other's nerves.

We have parked our RV at a friend's home (we're the best houseguests; we bring our own house). Bozeman, population 38,000, is surrounded by mountain ranges and appears regularly on lists of best places to live in the U.S. It's home base for outdoors types; we watch people tackle the Bridger Ridge Run, a 20-mile route up a mountain, along a ridge, and down again. Our Bozeman friends aren't hard-core, but they fly-fish, hike, and snowshoe, and as parents of teens themselves, have good ideas for getting our boys out of our tin box to use up adolescent energy—such as tubing down the Madison River. So the next day we drive west from Bozeman, toting our friends' inner tubes, for a float. That is, Robb and the boys will float. Someone has to drive the RV to the pickup point four miles downriver. I'm uncomfortable being on the sidelines for the tubing. I'm from a line of energetic parenting; my mother, 84, rides bikes with us, and my father still bodysurfs. We're doers. Except I won't be today.

I watch Robb and the boys drift, spread like limp starfish over their inner tubes, until they disappear around a bend, then I hop in the eight-foot-wide Beast. Robb's done most of the driving because I find it nerve-racking; there's no room for error on the narrow roads. A cross breeze pushes me toward traffic; a truck speeding in the other direction shoves me to the shoulder. I remind myself that people drive RVs all the time; more than nine million RVs are registered in the U.S. I see people in their 70s behind the wheel of rigs a lot bigger than ours—despite the fact that driving one feels like maneuvering a bull over a swinging footbridge.

I pull over gracefully at the pickup point. It'll be a while before my boys appear, so I settle on our rear bed and open the blinds for a view of the ribbon of river. Funny, a minute ago I was cursing the RV's lumbering aerodynamics; now I'm grateful that my portable hotel room puts me so close to the water.

The first floater I spot is Jeb; Gus and Robb follow. I clamber out of the RV and trot toward them. In my hurry I forget the camera. But really, a photo can't capture what I see, the joy and playfulness lighting up my sons, just as pure as when they were little and fake-wrestled their way across our living room. I decide to snap a mental image. It's a sensory snapshot I know I'll return to when they're grown.

I swing my hand over my head like a metronome. Seeing me, they paddle over. "Mom, let's go again," Jeb says. "You should do it this time." I eye the sky, which is turning an angry, steel-wool gray, and gather my boys protectively. "I will, another time."

"IT'S A MOOSE JAM," the man in the khaki hat whispers as we approach a knot of hikers on the Iceberg Lake Trail, in Glacier

National Park. We glimpse a gangly moose with sprouts for antlers. The sighting revs up Gus and Jeb, who'd complained about hiking ten miles so early in the morning. They dash ahead. We're in the heart of Glacier, in the northernmost part of Montana, on our way to Iceberg Lake. In the mid-1800s, 150 major glaciers glistened here; today, only 25 remain.

"An ice age glacier scraped out this valley," Robb tells our sons. It's awash in purple asters and orange Indian paintbrush. Peaks with the jagged notches of a house key loom above. A stream drops to one side like a silver plait. Farther up the trail, we come to a bowl with striated stone walls. At its base sits a small lake of a blue usually seen only in ads for Caribbean vacations. Filling the lake, like fat clouds in a brilliant sky, are icebergs—icebergs in August—some flat, some peaked, many no bigger than a king-size bed. The boys urgently want to stand on one. To my relief, a bed of ice floats near shore. After checking its stability with a stick, Gus and Jeb jump on, thrilled, and land solidly, raising their arms in triumphant bodybuilder poses. Emboldened, they leap onto a succession of nearby bergs—until they're almost in the middle of the lake.

I want to call them back. What if the icebergs crack? Would they get stuck under an ice shelf? I resist the urge to stop them,

MY SONS JUMP ONTO AN ICEBERG. I WANT TO CALL THEM BACK. WHAT IF IT CRACKS? BUT I RESIST THE URGE, AGAINST ALL MY MOTHERLY INSTINCTS.

against all my instincts as a mother. My boys are big enough to look after themselves. Really they're big enough to look after me.

I think back to our swim in the Firehole River, when I was losing my strength fighting the robust current. I'd considered bailing at that point. Instead, I'd slipped my fingers into a crack in the rock and pulled with as much force as I could. Just then, Jeb, the rock climber, had stretched one arm back and grabbed my hand, sweeping me past the problem part. In that instant I was both relieved and achingly nostalgic, remembering all the times I'd offered him my hand when he was struggling to climb a rock wall or get down from a tree. The turning of tables was dizzying—particularly in the fast-moving water.

The going easier, my sons and I had ended up on the ledge together. At our feet, the green water boiled and rushed in white curls. One by one we'd launched ourselves into the main push of the river. The current alternately spun and dunked me; I felt I was riding a slithery beast through the slot canyon. Up ahead, my boys' heads bobbed; then, suddenly, we hit a slower pool, and I crashed into them. Giddy, we gave each other high fives.

"You did it, Mom," Gus shouted, draping his arm around me. Yes, I did. I came a long way on that ride.

JEANNIE RALSTON is the author of the upcoming book *The Mother of All Field Trips* (2014). When not on the road, she and **ROBB KENDRICK**, who also shoots for *National Geographic* magazine, live in Austin, Texas.

THE INSIDER

Road Trip in the American West

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES sit somewhere between hotels and tents. The upside: RV life is autonomous—your quarters travel with you—and allows for spontaneous stops. Downsides: RVs need loads of gas and can be tricky to park.

HOW TO RENT AN RV

Most major cities have a local RV rental firm or a national company such as Cruise America or Road Bear RV. Choices fall generally into two tiers: bigger Class A motor homes (up to 40 feet long), which have diesel engines and look like rock-star buses, and (our choice) smaller motor homes built on automotive frames. Our 26-footer was relatively easy to maneuver, had enough

perks—refrigerator, shower, DVD player—and cost less than a Class A. We found rates running from \$180 a day for our rental (which included 850 free miles a week) to \$399 and up per day for a Class A motor home.

THINGS TO KNOW

Not all automobile insurers cover rented RVs; ours didn't, so we paid \$17 a day for coverage. Also, RVs gulp down gas. Our



PHOTO TIP

FINDING THE MOMENT

"Before making this shot of my son Jeb leaping across ice in Iceberg Lake," says photographer Robb Kendrick, "I observed the scene to get a feel for it. I watched Jeb negotiate the icebergs, leaping from one to the next. As he approached me, he leaped again, yielding this shot of an airborne moment, his arms and legs seeming to stretch to the four points of the compass."

Freelander should have gotten 8 to 10 miles per gallon, but our mountain trip had us averaging 7 mpg.

On the upside, our RV came with dishes, pots, and cutlery (some companies charge extra for them), which we supplemented with our own special knives and cooking utensils. Bed linens and towels for four of us cost \$30.

WHERE TO HOOK UP

Yellowstone National Park has more than 10 campgrounds that can accommodate RVs; Glacier National Park has six with hookup facilities. Not all accommodate large RVs, so call ahead.

TOTAL COSTS

The grand sum for our two-week rental—daily

fee, insurance, extra mileage, cleaning, and taxes—was \$3,650, or about \$260 a day for four people. Gas was an additional \$1,262.

WHAT TO READ

Empire of Shadows: The Epic Story of Yellowstone, by George Black (2012), chronicles the history of exploration at America's first national park during the westward expansion by pioneers such as Lewis and Clark. *Seasonal Disorder: Ranger Tales From Glacier National Park*, by Pat Hagan (2006), is the author's light-hearted take on his long love affair with the landscapes and wildlife of Glacier National Park, where he works seasonally as a naturalist and ranger.

ATLAS



A massive volcanic eruption 2.1 million years ago in Yellowstone National Park created a crater the size of Rhode Island.

Pour water on the summit of Triple Divide Peak, in Glacier National Park, and some of it will flow west into the Pacific Ocean, some east into the Atlantic Ocean, and some north into Hudson Bay.

Mountain goats, abundant in Glacier National Park, have nonskid hooves that splay wide for a good grip.

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT

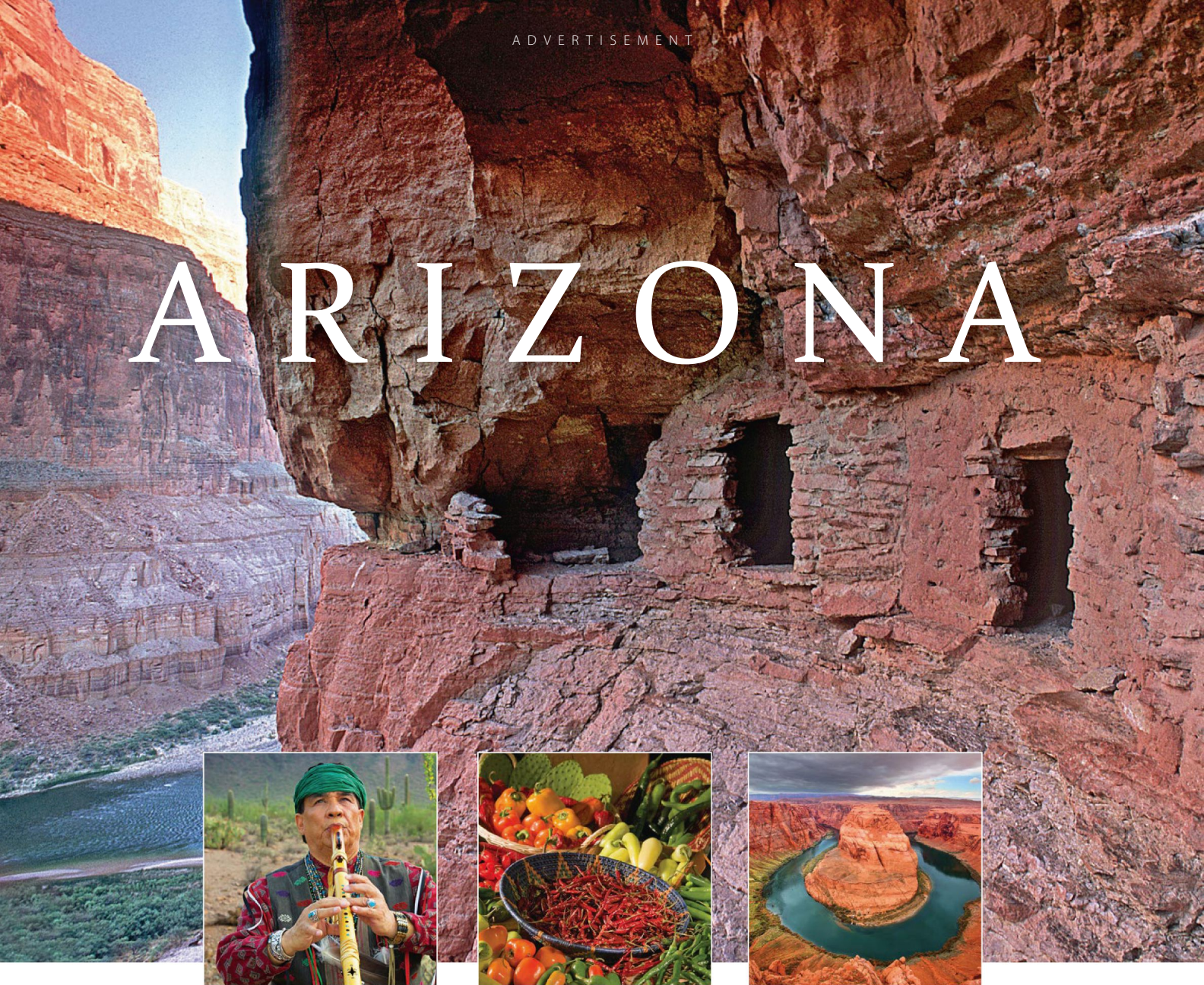


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ARIZONA



From Ancient Cultures Come Timeless Treasures

Arizona encompasses the spirit of the Wild West, the splendor of the Grand Canyon, the kicks of Route 66, and a rich American Indian history. Come and see how Arizona will inspire you.

The rich traditions of the past are as alive as they are welcoming in Arizona's American Indian landscape. The Grand Canyon State is home to 22 tribes—each with its own historical and cultural significance. Whichever reservation you choose to visit—Navajo, Hopi, Apache, Yavapai, or Hualapai, to name just a few—you'll undoubtedly be captivated by vast, beautiful terrain, ancient architectural ruins, a treasure trove of arts and crafts, and vibrant, contemporary towns.

Arizona's American Indian culture can be traced back at least 12,000 years. Anthropologists have identified several groups of early occupants, including the Ancestral Puebloan, Hohokam, Mogollon, and Salado peoples. American Indian tribes continue to contribute greatly to the spiritual, cultural, and economic life of Arizona. Providing travelers with the opportunity to experience this diversity and heritage firsthand is one of the things that make the state so special.

Arizona's trading posts, monuments, cultural centers, and museums feature much more than just American Indian art. These venues are woven into the fabric of the lives and histories of Arizona's native communities. Trading posts, for example, provide a trip back through time. Visitors can witness transactions being handled as they were in the early days of Arizona history, such as an elderly Navajo woman cashing a check by endorsing the back with an inked thumbprint.

While most reservations and tribal communities welcome visitors to experience their culture, tourism opportunities vary greatly among the tribes. Some, like the Navajo Nation and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, support a wide range of tourism experiences. Others are more private.

One of the best ways to experience Arizona's American Indian culture is to attend an event that celebrates tribal customs and lore, such as the Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest held at Phoenix's Heard Museum, or its Guild's Annual Indian Fair and Market, which features more than 600 of the nation's top Native American artists, lively music, and dance performances.

FLAGSTAFF Sitting on Top of the World

Elevate your vacation in Flagstaff! With spectacular microbreweries, a multifaceted art scene, and outdoor activities aplenty, you'll feel on top of the world.

New additions like the Historic Brewing Company and Mother Road Brewing Company, along with local favorites like Beaver Street Brewery and Flagstaff Brewing Company, make a not-to-be-missed craft-brewing scene. Visit during the Made in the Shade Beer Tasting Festival to sample from these and more.

Stroll through downtown's galleries, visit Theatrikos Theatre Company, or attend the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra for exceptional artistry. Pickin' in the Pines, an outstanding annual bluegrass festival, is a must-do, and to learn about local tribes, like the Navajo and Hopi, visit the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Flagstaff is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Located near seven national parks, it begs to be hiked, biked, and explored. Visit historic downtown to shop, dine, and delight in Route 66 nostalgia and the many attractions dedicated to Flagstaff's rich past.

Start your trip at the Flagstaff Visitor Center. This friendly, one-stop resource provides customized travel information, plus insider tips.

COCHISE COUNTY Wanted for Adventure

Walk where legendary cowboys walked in Tombstone—like at the O.K. Corral, which reenacts one of the most famous gunfights of the American West. Immerse yourself in the beauty and history of the Southwest at one of Cochise's national parks or the Amerind Museum, in Dagoon, and learn about Native American cultures. And don't miss the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, a national registered landmark, where you can experience 1800s-style prospecting.



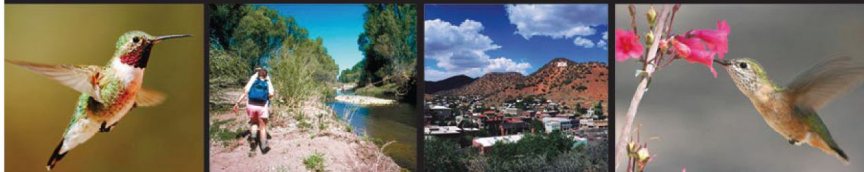


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Cochise is at an ecological crossroads and provides an exciting collection of birds, including rarities like the Elegant Trogon. Watch a live hummingbird banding session at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, where 15 varieties have been spotted. Attend the Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival to meet and learn from other aficionados.

Cochise County is also known for its wines. The sunny days and cool nights create prime grape-growing conditions. The majority of Arizonan wines are started here, and the many new wine tasting rooms, like those of the Zappa and Flying Leap Vineyards, prove why they are getting so much national buzz.

Plan Your ARIZONA Vacation Today!

- ★ American Indian culture: arizonaguide.com/adventure or call 1.866.366.9287
- ★ Flagstaff: flagstaffarizona.org
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NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
TRAVELER
APRIL 2014



A Reader's Guide

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 BOOKS

FROM CLASSICS TO COMICS, ROMANCES TO CRIME CAPERS,
THESE PAGE-TURNERS EVOKE A SENSE OF PLACE

BY **GEORGE W. STONE**

ILLUSTRATION BY
Kathryn Naumiec

THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP (5 OF THEM)

TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY by John Steinbeck (1962) “When I was very young and the urge to be someplace else was on me, I was assured by mature people that maturity would cure this itch,” begins Steinbeck. But wanderlust was a lifelong condition, and the author hit the road with his dog to find an America in transition.

ROAD FEVER by Tim Cahill (1992) Why limit an American road trip to the north? Cahill didn’t. In a hilarious and

harrowing (and world record-setting) 23.5 days, he drove from Argentina to Alaska.

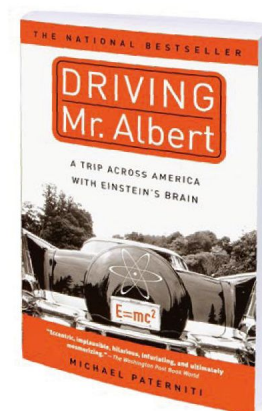
DRIVING MR. ALBERT by Michael Paterniti (2000) In this stranger-than-fiction drive from New Jersey to California, Einstein’s brain is delivered in a Tupperware bowl to his granddaughter.

THE DHARMA BUMS by Jack Kerouac (1958) Beat generation Buddhism enthusiasts hitchhike around the West in this jazz-fueled semi-autobiography.

BLUE HIGHWAYS by William Least Heat-Moon (1982) Jobless, loveless, and practically on the run, the author set out on a three-month, 13,000-mile journey to celebrate pre-globalized, pre-prepackaged America.

TRUE CRIME

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL by John Berendt (1994) “Mercer House was the envy of house-proud Savannah,” writes Berendt of the Victorian mansion of Jim Williams, a prominent local on trial for murder in this southern Gothic drama.



THE ORCHID THIEF by Susan Orlean (1998) This nonfiction caper digs into the subculture of South Florida’s floral black markets and meets a plant



Steve McCurry captured this image of women gathering clover in Yemen.

PICTURE BOOKS FOR GROWN-UPS

WITH A CLICK OF THE CAMERA—as these photo books show—worlds are revealed. **UNTOLD** (2012) tells the story behind the famous image of Afghan girl Sharbat Gula as well as other photos of distant places made hauntingly human by Steve McCurry’s compassionate eye. **HERE FAR AWAY** (2012) collects four decades of the black-and-white, animal-inspired pictures (flamingos in Namibia, a lone horse in an English field) of Finnish photographer Pentti Sammallahti. The photo collages and journal entries in **THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION** (1997) pay tribute to Dan Eldon, who died at 22 covering the African land and people he loved.

dealer obsessed with cloning the rare ghost orchid.

BALLAD OF THE WHISKEY ROBBER by Julian Rubinstein (2004) This “true story of bank heists, ice hockey, Transylvanian pelt smuggling, moonlighting detectives and broken hearts” tells of Attila Ambrus’s double life as a Budapest hockey goalie and infamous Hungarian thief.

A TRAVEL WRITER WALKS INTO A BAR...

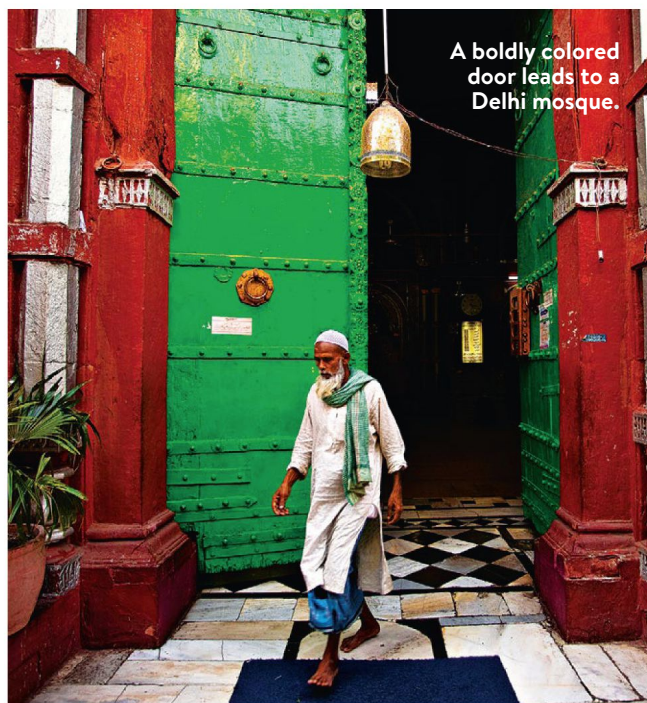
THE INNOCENTS ABROAD by Mark Twain (1869) Twain skewers the antics of mid-19th-century affluent Americans on “the great pleasure excursion to Europe and the Holy Land” while detailing the travel discoveries that even a bunch of bumbling Yanks can make.

A WALK IN THE WOODS by Bill Bryson (1998) “A little voice in my head said: Sounds neat! Let’s do it!” writes Bryson of his more humorous than heroic slog from Maine to Georgia along the Appalachian Trail. Bryson’s tale may be the funniest call for conservation ever written.

TRAVELS WITH MY DONKEY by Tim Moore (2004) Subtitled “One Man and His Ass on a Pilgrimage to Santiago,” this drunk-on-sangria travelogue journeys 500 witty miles from the French side of the Pyrenees to Spain’s celebrated reliquary of St. James.

THE SEX LIVES OF CANNIBALS by J. Maarten Troost (2004) You say “island”; Troost says “quagmire.” The trouble-in-paradise genre gets an equatorial Pacific update in this memoir of misadventures on Tarawa, a speck in the Republic of Kiribati.

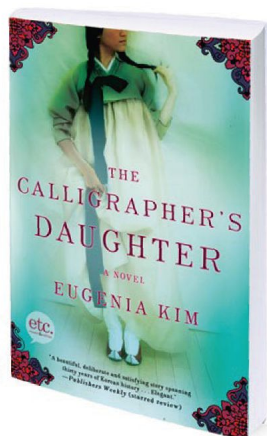
SCOOP by Evelyn Waugh (1938) In this send-up of the news industry (the protagonist is a



A boldly colored door leads to a Delhi mosque.

PASSAGES ON INDIA

FOUR PEOPLE FROM different strata of the Indian caste system come together in a Bombay house during the turbulent mid-1970s in Rohinton Mistry’s **A FINE BALANCE** (1995). In Arundhati Roy’s **THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS** (1997), love, obligation, and desire rip apart a family in Kerala, where during monsoon season the “countryside turns an immodest shade of green.” Eric Newby journeys **SLOWLY DOWN THE GANGES** (1966), India’s holiest river, by boat, bus, and cart. In **CITY OF DJINNS** (1993), William Dalrymple spends a year in Delhi’s modern mayhem, communing with charismatic locals and the spirit-world djinns.



war correspondent who works for the then fictional newspaper the *Daily Beast*), Waugh offers a thinly disguised glimpse of Ethiopia and a critique of British pretensions.

SAG HARBOR by Colson Whitehead (2009) Summer is as sweet as a wharfside waffle cone and as tricky to navigate as an arcade game of Asteroids in this mid-1980s coming-of-age tale set in an African-American vacation enclave on Long Island.

DON’T STOP THE CARNIVAL by Herman Wouk (1965) In the midst of a midlife crisis, a Manhattan PR flack ditches the city and escapes to a fictional Caribbean island to start anew as a hotel manager.

ASIA, DECODED

THE CALLIGRAPHER’S DAUGHTER by Eugenia Kim (2009) “I learned I had no name on the same day I learned fear.” So starts this soulful novel about a dying aristocratic culture within Japanese-occupied Korea in the decades leading to WWII.

RIVER TOWN by Peter Hessler (2001) As a Peace Corps volunteer, Hessler taught English in China’s Yangtze River valley, immersing himself in local life and decoding Orwellian red state doctrine.

SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET by Heinrich Harrer (1953) During WWII, an unlikely friendship develops between the Dalai Lama and an Austrian mountaineer who has escaped a British prisoner-of-war camp in India.

PURE by Timothy Mo (2012) Snooky, a Muslim-born *katoey* (lady boy) in Thailand, is coerced into spying on a local Islamist school in this fictional study of rising extremism in Southeast Asia—with side trips to the Philippines, Singapore, and beyond.

THE QUIET AMERICAN by Graham Greene (1955) The British author portrays Western blundering in the powder keg that was French Indochina (now Vietnam) in this classic wartime novel.

THE BEACH by Alex Garland (1997) A Thai island utopia turns foul in this satirical novel that nevertheless sparked a real-life tourist rush to Thailand’s remote sands.

EXTREME SOUTH AMERICA IN PATAGONIA

by Bruce Chatwin (1977) When he was a kid, Chatwin found a dinosaur fossil in his grandmother's cabinet. This inspired him, years later, to travel to the southern tip of South America, where his peregrinations led to tales of banditry, Butch Cassidy, and Welsh immigrants.

IN TROUBLE AGAIN by Redmond O'Hanlon (1988) This nail-biter of a jungle trek begins with a review of the afflictions O'Hanlon might

encounter in the depths of the Venezuelan Amazon: Chagas' disease (from a bug bite that kills you up to 20 years later), river blindness, and the candiru (a tiny catfish that can attach itself, with grave consequence, within the urethra).

BRAZILIAN ADVENTURE
by Peter Fleming (1933) His brother invented James Bond, but 26-year-old journalist Peter Fleming? He signed on to a treacherous 3,000-mile Brazilian jungle hunt to uncover the fate of a lost English explorer.

WILD COAST *by John Gimlette (2011)* "To some this is hell. To others it's an ecological paradise, a sort of X-rated Garden of Eden," writes Gimlette, who embarked on a swashbuckling three-month expedition into the dense forests of "South America's untamed edge"—Guyana, French Guiana, and Suriname.

READ IT AND EAT
TWO TOWNS IN PROVENCE
by M. F. K. Fisher (1964) This memoir is much more than a pastiche of pastis and other local flavors from Marseille and Aix-en-Provence; Fisher's tale merges travel, geography, philosophy, and food.

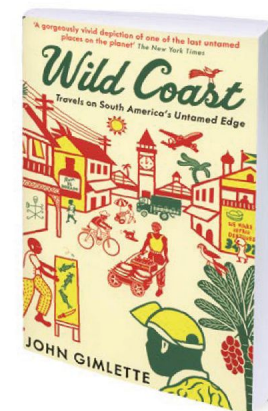
MASTERING THE ART OF SOVIET COOKING *by Anya Von Bremzen (2013)* This sweet-and-sour remembrance of cuisine behind the Iron Curtain reveals the unexpected highs (black-market bubblegum) and grim lows (bread lines) of dining back in the U.S.S.R.

LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE
by Laura Esquivel (1989) A love affair is thwarted by filial tradition in revolution-era Mexico, where Tita pines for Pedro for 22 years while keeping family recipes and lore alive. You won't be the first traveler to Mexico asking for turkey mole with almonds.

COOKING WITH FERNET BRANCA *by James Hamilton-Paterson (2004)* A tart counterpart to *Under the Tuscan Sun*, this delicious satire features a pompous English hack who attempts to immerse himself in the culinary heart of Italy until his nutty eastern European neighbor destroys his delusions, wrecks his recipes, and (possibly) stirs his passions.

LITERARY LIONESSES IN AFRICA

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT *by Alexandra*



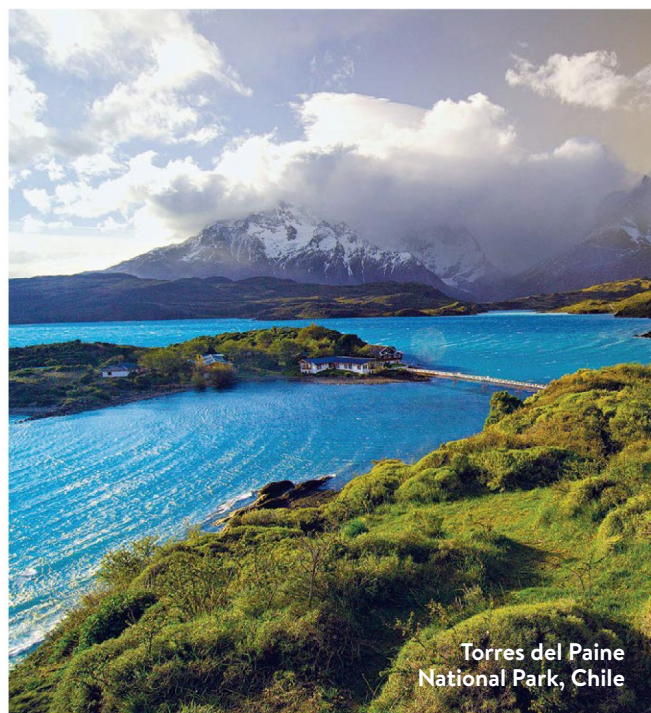
Fuller (2001) Raised during the Rhodesian Bush War, Fuller scuttled with her family from their scrappy farm in Zimbabwe to Malawi to Zambia, in this big-hearted tale of survival.

OUT OF AFRICA *by Isak Dinesen (1937)* "Looking back on a sojourn in the African highlands, you are struck by your feeling of having lived for a time up in the air," writes Dinesen, who ran a coffee plantation at the foot of the Ngong Hills, near Nairobi. She recorded the airy rhythms and knotty romances of an East Africa lumbering from tradition to modernity.

DOWN THE NILE *by Rosemary Mahoney (2007)* Spellbound by the Sphinx, Mahoney rowed solo down the Nile in a fisherman's skiff—perilously close to crocs—to survey the cultures along its shores, paying homage en route to the great travelers (Gustave Flaubert and Florence Nightingale) who preceded her.

WEST WITH THE NIGHT *by Beryl Markham (1942)* The first person to complete a solo east-west transatlantic flight—and that's the least interesting thing about her—Markham evokes her childhood in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya and her exploits as a bush pilot.

THE POISONWOOD BIBLE *by Barbara Kingsolver (1998)* A



GONE HOLLYWOOD

THESE TRAVEL SCENES hit the screens. Stieg Larsson's **THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO** (2008) launched murderously bleak Swedish winters into a sizzling Nordic literary meme. South America transforms a young Ernesto "Che" Guevara in **THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES** (1993). Cheryl Strayed's solo hike along the Pacific Crest Trail gets to the essence of **WILD** (2012).

ON THE WEB

Have other great travel books you'd like to recommend? Share them at nationalgeographic.com/travellibrary.

Cruising in old-school style,
a cab passes Cuba's Capitol.

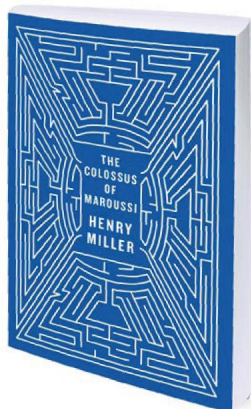


TREASURED ISLANDS

"SOMEWHERE BETWEEN CALABRIA AND CORFU, the blue really begins," writes Lawrence Durrell in **PROSPERO'S CELL** (1945), a luminous reflection on an Ionian island and its inhabitants. Other isle-centric reads: Henry Miller's **THE COLOSSUS OF MAROUSSI** (1941), penned after Durrell invited him to Greece; Oscar Hijuelos's **THE MAMBO KINGS PLAY SONGS OF LOVE** (1989), with a pulsating Havana beat; Michael Ondaatje's conjuring of his native Sri Lanka in **RUNNING IN THE FAMILY** (1982); and P. F. Kluge's tropical mystery, **MASTER BLASTER** (2012), set in Saipan.

Christian missionary family from Georgia alights in the Belgian Congo in 1959. In the resulting clash of values, saving souls becomes harder than it seemed.

TRAINS, TRAINS, AND MORE TRAINS
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS by Agatha Christie (1934) Belgian detective Hercule Poirot encounters a freakish cast of ticketed



passengers as he untangles the mystery behind a wealthy American's murder on a train from Istanbul to London.

AROUND INDIA IN 80 TRAINS by Monisha Rajesh (2012) "I had never seen India as a tourist. If I was to go back and give it a real chance after 20 years, what was the best way?" asks Rajesh. Her answer: by riding absolutely everywhere on every sort of track, from

luxury trains to Mumbai's hazardous commuter lines.

THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR by Paul Theroux (1975) Theroux takes the train from London to Tokyo and back across Siberia in a pre-cellphone era where chaos, cultural clashes, and third-class cars color a career-defining account.

BRIGHT WORDS, BIG CITIES

RIO DE JANEIRO by Ruy Castro (2003) In 2003, amid a local gang uprising, some 400,000 tourists landed in Rio to celebrate Carnival. "The city nearly drowned in feijoada (the traditional dish of black bean stew)," writes Castro in this portrait of the world's most sensual city, where bossa nova, beaches, and *futebol* top Cariocas' obsessions.

LONDON PERCEIVED by *V. S. Pritchett* (1962) Punctuated with Evelyn Hofer's striking photographs, this book evokes the landscapes, lore, and legendary characters that have kept London endlessly fascinating.

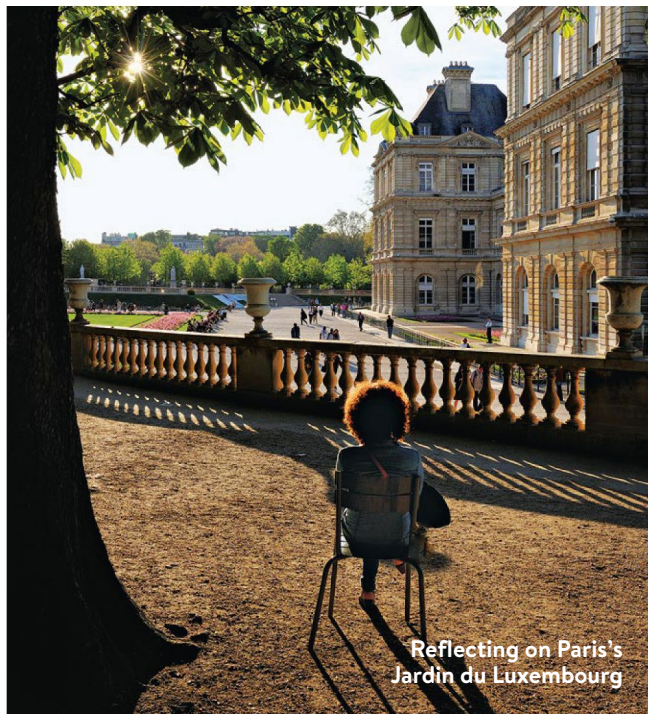
TRIESTE AND THE MEANING OF NOWHERE by *Jan Morris* (2001) "It is not one of your iconic cities, instantly visible in the memory or the imagination," writes Morris of the unprepossessing Adriatic haven of Trieste, overlooked by travelers—but not by history.

TRAVEL ILLUSTRATED
PERSEPOLIS by *Marjane Satrapi* (2000) "I believe that an entire nation should not be judged by the wrongdoings of a few extremists," writes Satrapi in the introduction to her tragicomic-strip memoir of growing up in Tehran, Iran, during the Islamic Revolution.

CARNET DE VOYAGE by *Craig Thompson* (2004) This sketchbook diary chronicles months of pensive wandering through Europe and Morocco in cartoons that show the full dimension of cultural alienation and occasional enlightenment.

JERUSALEM by *Guy Delisle* (2012) Illustrating life as an expat in the Holy City, this travelogue captures the social and religious swirl of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations.

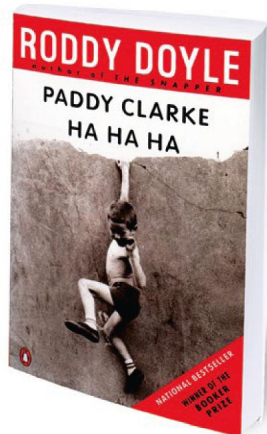
MOODY IRELAND
PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA by *Roddy Doyle* (1993) Meet a 10-year-old hooligan named Paddy who rattles around in this fast-paced, poverty-pinched paean to late 1960s Ireland. "We were coming down our road. Kevin stopped at a gate and bashed it with his stick," begins the book—and it never lets up.



Reflecting on Paris's
Jardin du Luxembourg

PARIS, J'ADORE

JULIA CHILD DISCOVERS her true culinary calling in Paris and Marseille, thanks to dishes such as *boeuf bourguignon*, in **MY LIFE IN FRANCE** (2006). Edmund White's erudite yet gossipy **THE FLÂNEUR** (2001) strolls from Montmartre to the Seine. Ernest Hemingway's **A MOVEABLE FEAST** (1964) hangs out with literary stars and artful expats in Les Deux Magots and other jazz-age cafés, but Rosecrans Baldwin's memoir **PARIS, I LOVE YOU BUT YOU'RE BRINGING ME DOWN** (2012) reveals the comical gulf between the romance and reality of being an American expat in the City of Light.



ARE YOU SOMEBODY? by *Nuala O'Faolain* (1996) Her gloomy upbringing in Dublin (one of nine kids, alcoholic mom, philandering dad, lust-killing nuns) held little promise that this magnificent memoirist would carve a place for herself at the heart of Irish literary life.

A BOOK OF MIGRATIONS by *Rebecca Solnit* (1997) The author's long hike in western Ireland leads to a rumination on movement—cultural, psychological, personal—in a land

partly defined by "tinkers" (Irish itinerants).

POLAR OPPOSITES
TERRA INCOGNITA by *Sara Wheeler* (1996) For Ernest Shackleton, "Antarctica was a metaphor as well as an explorer's dream," notes Wheeler, who spent seven months in one of the world's most inhospitable spaces.

ARCTIC DREAMS by *Barry Lopez* (1986) "The land as far as you can see is rung with a harmonious authority," writes Lopez about the enduring force of the Arctic region.

AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND by *Tété-Michel Kpomassie* (1981) A Togolese fixates on Greenland after finding a book about Inuit at an evangelical bookshop. He eventually makes it to the land of his obsessions and writes this improbable travelogue.

ESCAPE TO EASTERN EUROPE
THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING by *Milan Kundera* (1984) This philosophical and liberally sexy tale of Czech intellectuals during the Prague Spring tracks the tyranny of external events over our personal motivations.

BLACK LAMB AND GREY FALCON by *Rebecca West* (1941) "All Central Europe seems to me to be enacting a fantasy which I cannot interpret," writes West in one of travel literature's most dizzying door-stoppers. This tale of a journey through Yugoslavia in 1934 is a political portrait of the Balkans replete with attitude, opinion, and conjecture—some outdated, some timeless.

BETWEEN THE WOODS AND THE WATER by *Patrick Leigh Fermor* (1986) At age 18, the author set off on foot across Europe and found an old

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photograph by
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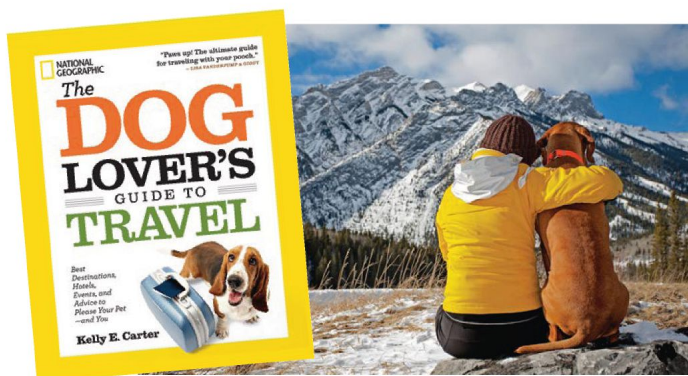
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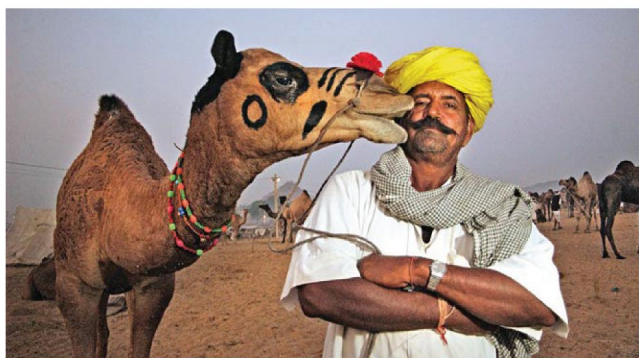
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world on the edge of modern tumult. In this second book of a trilogy, Fermor tours Prague, Budapest, and Transylvania on the road to Constantinople.

ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?

EAT, PRAY, LOVE by Elizabeth Gilbert (2006) "I wish Giovanni would kiss me," begins this memoir of a woman's journey from personal pain to transcendence through Italian food, Indian insight, and Balinese bliss.

THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS

by Isabel Allende (1982) The master of magical realism spins a multigenerational tale of a family riding the roiling tides of love and politics in revolutionary Chile.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW by E. M. Forster (1908) An Edwardian love triangle catches fire in Florence and Rome in a

romance that's both a study of British mores and an exploration of classical and Renaissance settings.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN IN GOOD PLACES

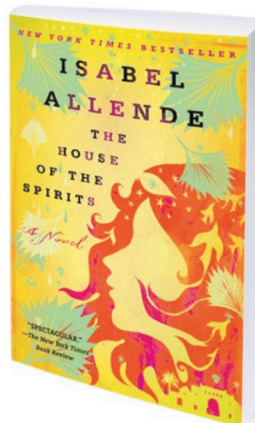
INTO THIN AIR by Jon Krakauer (1997) "Attempting to climb Everest is an intrinsically irrational act—a triumph of desire over sensibility," writes Krakauer in the introduction to his spine-tingling account of epic disaster atop Earth's highest peak.

ALIVE

by Piers Paul Read (1974) And you thought airplane food was bad? In 1972, a jet carrying rugby players from Uruguay crashed in the Andes; only 16 men survived ten hellish weeks atop snowy peaks. Guess how.

JUST DESERTS

THE SHELTERING SKY by



Paul Bowles (1949) A sense of alienation and existential angst—mirrored by the stark geography of North Africa's deserts—permeates this novel about American travelers confronting cultural chasms and impenetrable emptiness.

DESERT SOLITAIRE by Edward Abbey (1968) "Every man, every woman, carries in heart and

mind the image of the ideal place," writes Abbey. His was Moab, in Utah's canyon lands.

THE VALLEYS OF THE

ASSASSINS

by Freya Stark (1934) "In the wastes of civilization, Luristan is still an enchanted name," writes Arabist and adventurer Stark, who trekked deep into Persia to document the Lords of Alamut, hashish-fueled terrorists, for the Royal Geographical Society.

ARABIAN SANDS

by Wilfred Thesiger (1959) Legendary explorer Thesiger lived for five years with Bedouin peoples, creating a mystique, rooted in absolute immersion, of the modern nomad.

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Cincinnati, Ohio

Continued from page 61

at his Fins, Feathers and Bar-B-Q restaurant is sending plumes of tangy woodsmoke curling past the bronzed pate of Ohio son President James A. Garfield. "Now that's the time the movers and shakers come out."

Nowhere is the clamber upward more evident than in Over-the-Rhine, a formerly down-on-its-luck neighborhood about the size of New Orleans' French Quarter, believed to contain the country's largest collection of 19th-century Italianate buildings—943.

"Over-the-Rhine was home to thousands of German immigrants who came to the boomtown of Cincinnati in the early 19th century," explains real estate agent Seth Maney, who writes a blog called OTR Matters. I'm munching on a rather un-Teutonic meal of pork buns and octopus salad with Maney and others at Kaze, a Japanese restaurant on Vine Street. Nearby are intriguing shops like Switch, a lighting store, and Article, a men's shop that hawks small-batch Noble Denim jeans made in Cincinnati.

"They brought their taste for hard work, architecture, and craftsmanship," Maney continues, "but somehow we forgot OTR and its lessons. Its name tarnished."

Perhaps tenacity saved Over-the-Rhine. Even as scars from race riots in 2001 were slow to heal, some residents stayed put. The old German community refused to abandon its heritage—in fact, priests still conduct a weekly Mass in German at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church. And now, finally, residents and newcomers like Maney and his friends seem to be staging a revival.

I HAD HEARD SIMILAR optimism expressed earlier at Senate, another OTR restaurant. "Two and a half years ago it was scary to come down Vine Street," Patrick Stroupe had told me over the rattle of his cocktail shaker mixing a drink. "Now it's an amazing assortment of restaurants and stores, with more on the way. This is a town full of good ideas."

Many of those come from the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation, known locally as 3CDC and the source of some \$300 million

of public and private investments in the neighborhood. The favorite project so far, most everyone agrees, is the remake of Washington Park, an eight-acre green space. The morning I visit, retirees Robert and Glenise Maxwell are basking in the sun on a bench facing the redone tile-roofed bandstand where German oompah bands used to play and, more recently, heroin deals went down.

"That's over now," says Robert as he pushes back his red baseball cap to scratch his gray hair. The couple, married for 48 years, are longtime residents who have seen their neighborhood down and now see it up. Children run past, screaming with delight as hidden jets of water spurt to life beneath their feet.

The Music Hall, a vast castle of bricks and turrets, fronts its northwest side like a curtain waiting to rise on the community's second act. "It was built with nearly four million bricks," says architect Haviland Argo, as we eat alfresco at the Anchor, on the park's periphery. "Inside, the Springer Auditorium has some of the world's best acoustics for a musical setting, though maybe the most interesting noises come from the ghosts purported to haunt the place. The land it stands on was once a cemetery."

I'm pleased to devour the gossip—and my trout. This city has always enjoyed its food: Famous for their chili (beans optional), Cincinnatians spoon down two million pounds of it annually, including 850,000 pounds of shredded cheese. Downtown, a beehive-topped waitress at Hathaway's Diner sets me up with an order of eggs and *goetta* (a kind of scrapple). At top-rated restaurants such as Boca, Abigail Street, and Local 127 on Vine, chefs draw on deep traditions while kicking things up a notch. Local 127 pays tribute to the city's 19th-century reign as a pork-packing center: The "Porkopolis" plate heaps with ribs and sausage, an ode to the whole hog as well as an old city nickname.

THIS TOWN GAVE America iconic brands such as Tide and Ivory soap, so it seems a fitting home for the American Sign Museum, a 1907 factory building in Camp Washington with 600-plus signs.

A 20-foot-tall genie straddles the entrance. Inside, it's a flashing, buzzing, amping display of lettering exploding in

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neon and wattage. A McDonald's sign blinks from the era of 15-cent burgers. A revolving satellite from Anaheim, California, orbits yellow neon Howard Johnson's and a glowing roster of other motel names. The museum even has its own "Mona Lisa"—a wall-size housewife pushing Bubble Up soda—as well as a time line of the history of 3-D lettering.

I find another sign of the times when I turn a corner. In front of a wall of barn timber advertising Mail Pouch Tobacco, men and women sit in pairs as if speed dating. Small-shop owners from the Northside neighborhood are networking with graphic designers and sign fabricators. They're looking to create public faces for their enterprises that will be colorful and practical while reflecting the free-spirited community, from Take the Cake bakery to Shake It Records.

"We want to train the next generation of sign makers," says museum founder Tod Swormstedt. "And help [the Northside] in the process."

LATE THAT EVENING, I'm back in Over-the-Rhine when I encounter a knot of people in a parking lot. There's a sudden puff of flame. Startled, I draw back. Is it the circus? "Night Owl Market, bro," says a happy, if overly lubricated, young man.

Twentysomething friends Sally Yoon and Nadia Laabs started this conglomeration of food trucks and artisan booths on Main Street. Not far from Findlay Market, Ohio's oldest-running produce hall (it opened in 1855), the event is held monthly from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and harnesses the energy of a rising downtown. Merrymakers come on foot and bike.

Tonight a cluster of revelers are dancing to a merengue band, while others are trying to swivel hoops around their hips.

After the past few days of having my assumptions confounded, midnight hula-hoopers and fire twirlers scarcely faze me. As I watch the mirthful crowd, anything seems possible. A microbrewery. An art hotel. A restored neighborhood. For now, I think I'll give the hula hoop a whirl.

Contributing editor **ANDREW NELSON** often writes about cities, from Detroit to San Francisco. Photographer **MELISSA FARLOW** shot Quebec for the February/March 2013 *Traveler*.



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THE INSIDER

Cincinnati, Ohio

THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS is on the way up. New riverfront parks and neighborhood comebacks are revitalizing the urban core—a mix of industrial grit and Victorian ornamentation that wags call “sauerbraten Gothic.”

WHERE TO EAT

Cincy's trademark dish is chili, heavily influenced by Greek and Macedonian immigrants who seasoned the meat with cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and other Mediterranean flavors. Traditionally ladled over spaghetti and topped with cheese, the native invention appears on countless menus around

town, including at the pervasive hometown chain of **Skyline Chili**. No one eats alone at **Tucker's**, a 68-year-old diner jammed with regulars who fill up on vegetarian chili and *goetta*, a sausage loaf served by Joe and Carla Tucker. **Boca** exudes downtown extravagance, with the drama of an opera set and star items such as truffle risotto



and mascarpone cheesecake. Around the corner, elegant **Metropole** has wowed critics with its old-school wood oven and original mosaic tiles. The string chicken, hung and roasted, comes with veggies flavored by the drip-pings; pickles get elevated with small-batch vinegars.

WHERE TO STAY

Housed in the art deco Carew Tower, a national landmark, the **Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza** makes a smart home base for exploring walkable neighborhoods like the Banks riverfront and Over-the-Rhine. Modern paintings and installations give downtown's **21c** a quirky, sophisticated bent, while the cocktail terrace on the roof is a new favorite

gathering place for superb views in all directions.

WHAT TO SEE

The city moves in miniature at Union Terminal's **Cincinnati Museum Center**. A 7,000-square-foot model captures the urban layout from 1900 through the 1940s, replete with clanging streetcars, Pepsodent billboards, beetle-bodied Chevys, and more. Amble among neo-Gothic revival tombs at the **Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum**, a “horticultural laboratory” with 1,200-plus plant species. Founded in 1845, the park is one of the largest cemeteries in the U.S. The **Public Library** displays the “Cincinnati Panorama of 1848,” a daguerreotype that

catches the riverfront in great detail—clothes hanging to dry, litter on the street. It's the oldest comprehensive photo of a U.S. city.

EXPLORE

UNDERWORLDS

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center honors slaves who fled north through Cincinnati. The city has other underground secrets—literally, including a ghost subway with four stations and 2.2 miles of track. Construction began in 1919, but war, politics, and economic woes caused delays and ultimately derailed the project. Officials entombed the marvel, but the Cincinnati Museum Center runs tours one day in May. Also coursing under the streets: pre-Prohibition lagering cellars (below) accessible on OTR Brewery District tours.



ATLAS



In 1869, the **Cincinnati Reds**—then the **Cincinnati Red Stockings**—became the first professional baseball team.

Opened in 1963, the **Blind Lemon Cafe** in Mount Adams gave Jimmy Buffett an early career break.

Annual per capita beer consumption in the U.S. was 16 gallons in the early 1890s. For people living in Cincinnati, the average tally bubbled up to nearly 40 gallons.

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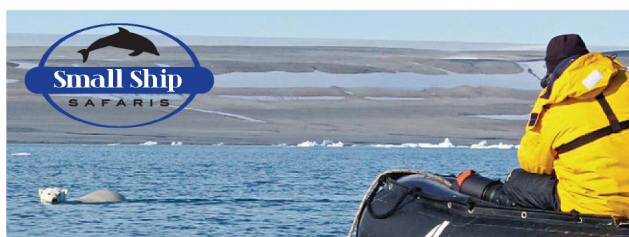


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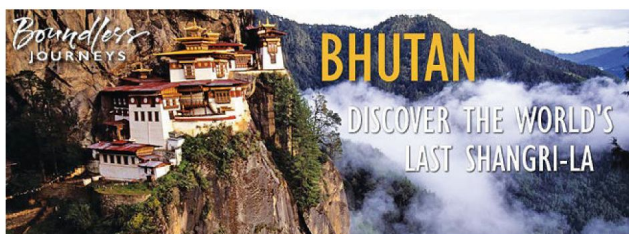
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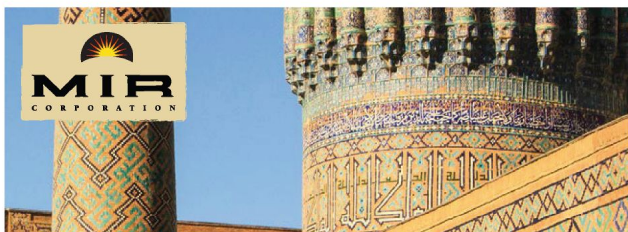
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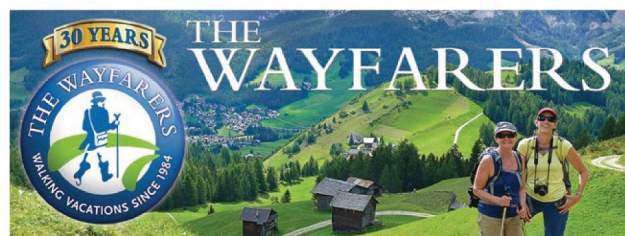
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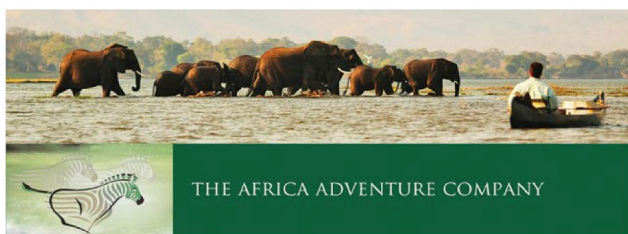
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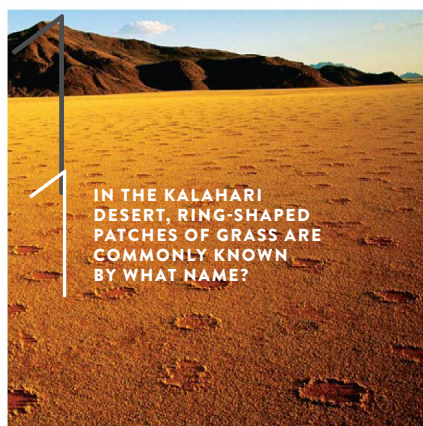
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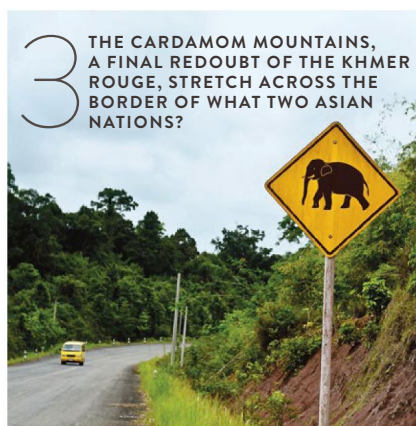
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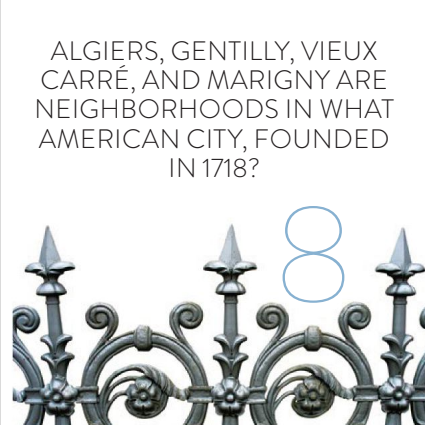
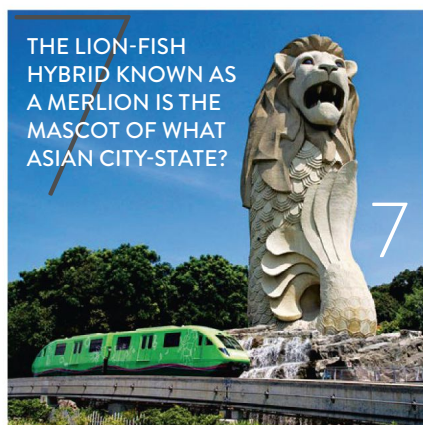
By GEORGE W. STONE



OLYMPUS MONS, THE TALLEST KNOWN MOUNTAIN IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, TOWERS 15.4 MILES OVER THE SURFACE OF WHAT PLANET?



TOGETHER, THE PORTUGUESE WORDS FOR WINE AND GARLIC FORM THE NAME OF WHAT CURRY NATIVE TO GOA, INDIA?



ANSWERS 1. Fairy circles 2. Mars 3. Cambodia and Thailand 4. vinaloos 5. Nebraska 6. Ibn Battuta 7. Singapore 8. New Orleans 9. Argentine Patagonia

GEORGE STEINMETZ/CORBIS (DESERT), DAVID ARKY/GETTY IMAGES (PLANETS), PAWELL BIENKOWSKI/ALAMY (SIGN), UGO CUTILLI/SHUTTERSTOCK (GARLIC), JOHN COLETTI/CORBIS (BRIDGE), DORLING KINDERSLEY/GETTY IMAGES (MAN, LION), AROGANT/SHUTTERSTOCK (IRONWORK), ELNAVEGANTE/SHUTTERSTOCK (GLACIER)

Volume XXXI, Number 2, National Geographic Traveler (ISSN 0747-0932) is published eight times a year (February, April, May, June, August, October, November, December) by the National Geographic Society, 1445 17th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. \$19.95 a year, \$4.99 a copy. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTION: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National Geographic Traveler, P.O. Box 63002, Tampa, FL 33663-3002. In Canada, agreement number 40063649, return undeliverable Canadian addresses to National Geographic Traveler, P.O. Box 4412 STA A, Toronto, Ontario M3W 3W2. We occasionally make our subscriber names available to companies whose products or services may be of interest to you. If you prefer not to be included, you may request that your name be removed from promotional lists by calling 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463), to prevent your name from being made available to all direct mail companies, contact: Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.



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Photos, clockwise from top left: a Peruvian mother and child, a toucan alights in Costa Rica, a lioness stands at attention in the grasslands of Tanzania, a family splashes through the rapids of the Corobicí River, a family observes wildlife in Yellowstone National Park.



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